JARROD BROWN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ROBERT TOMASSINI and THOMAS HROMOWYK, on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

- vs - Case No. 3:14-cv-01226-MAD-ML

FCA US LLC,

Defendant.

Examination before trial of JARROD BROWN, taken pursuant to Subpoena, in the offices of JACK W. HUNT & ASSOCIATES, INC., 1120 Liberty Building, Buffalo, New York, on October 8, 2019, commencing at 1:07 p.m., before LORI K. BECK, CSR, RDR, CRR, Notary Public.

2 1 APPEARANCES: LAW OFFICES OF ELMER ROBERT KEACH, III, 2 By ELMER ROBERT KEACH, III, ESQ., One Pine West Plaza, Suite 109, 3 Washington Avenue Ext., Albany, New York 12205-5531, (518) 434-1718,4 bobkeach@keachlawfirm.com, 5 Appearing for the Plaintiffs. 6 THOMPSON COBURN LLP, By THOMAS L. AZAR, ESQ., 7 (to be admitted pro hac vice) One US Bank Plaza, St. Louis, Missouri 63101, 8 (314) 552-6000, 9 tazar@thompsoncoburn.com, Appearing for the Defendant. 13:07:14 10 13:07:14 11 JARROD BROWN, Cambria, New York, after 13:07:14 12 13:07:42 13 being duly called and sworn, testified as follows: 13:07:42 14 13:07:42 15 **EXAMINATION BY MR. KEACH:** 13:07:42 16 13:07:43 17 Okay, Mr. Brown. My name's Attorney Q. Bob Keach, lawyer from Albany. 13:07:45 18 13:07:47 19 We're going to take your testimony in a proposed class action lawsuit that's been filed by 13:07:49 20 my clients, Bob Tomassini and Thomas Hromowyk --13:07:52 21 13:07:55 22 and I'm going to mispronounce that name a hundred 13:07:57 23 times today -- against FCA US, which is the

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company that makes Chrysler and Dodge cars.

What we're participating in today is called a deposition. It's where I get to ask you questions, and you have to provide me with a spoken response.

Now, that's important, because, you know, in ordinary conversation, people say uh-huh or um-hum or they shake or nod their head. You can't do that today, because she, as the court reporter, cannot take those things down.

So you've got to answer yes or no or, if you're going to shake your head, "I don't know," whatever it is. Just give me an honest answer, but you have to speak it.

A. Okay.

Q. Second, you need to let me finish my questions, and I'm going to show you the same courtesy in return. That way you and I can avoid talking over each other.

You and I talking over each other today is a bad thing. It interferes with the court reporter taking the record and just makes everybody's life a

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13:08:50 1 little harder.

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Now, I just want to confirm: You're not represented by counsel today, correct?

- A. That is correct.
- Q. All right. You're going to hear

 Mr. Azar make a series of objections today.

 Generally his objections will be limited as to

 form, but regardless, Mr. Azar is not your lawyer,

 and it doesn't matter what he says. He can say

 whatever he wants. You have to answer my questions

 regardless, okay?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Now, that brings me to my next point.

If at any point in time today you want to take a break, you let me know, and I'll hook you up, okay?

You know, I think you and I have a lot more in common than you may know sitting here, but this ain't the Bataan Death March. You don't have to sit here, you know, for hours on end.

You got to use the bathroom, you want to smoke a cigarette, your wife's blowing up your phone wondering where you are, you got to take care

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of it, whatever it is, you just tell me. I'll hook you up, okay? I'll give you a break.

On the flip side, I just want you to let me get my questions done before you ask me for a break, so if I've asked you a question and you haven't responded, at least get the question done and then take a break, or if I'm showing you a document, let's get through the document before you take a break.

Does that sound fair?

- A. Yes.
- Q. All right. Now, this technological terror you see in front of you is how I'm going to show you my documents, and you're going to see the document on the page in front of you.

If at any point in time you want to get the whole document in front of you, you just ask me.

I'll email it to the court reporter, and they'll print it out, okay?

I do this for a range of reasons, primarily organization, because I'm just notorious for losing deposition exhibits, and if I show them to you on my iPad, I definitely ain't going to lose my iPad,

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13:10:19 1 okay?

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But if there's a problem doing this today, 13:10:19 you tell me, and we can just go paper. Just let me 3 know whatever your preference is, all right? 13:10:23 4

> Α. Yes.

Finally, I am not a perfect examiner, Q. and sometimes I ask questions that witnesses don't understand. Sometimes I use words they don't understand. Sometimes -- and that may well happen today -- there's a dialogue between counsel that interferes with your ability to understand.

And when those things happen, you just tell me, and I'll take the steps necessary to make sure that you and I can have an intelligent conversation, all right? All I want from you today is to tell me the truth about, you know, what happened here, and -- you know, and as part of that process, you and I need to be able to understand each other.

If you have any problem with my questions, tell me. I'll address it. On the flip side, if you answer me, I'm going to assume that you understood me.

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Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 7 13:11:13 1 Sound fair? 13:11:13 2 Α. Yes. All right. Now, you -- you've never 13:11:13 3 been deposed before, have you? 13:11:13 4 13:11:13 5 No, I don't believe so. Α. 13:11:13 6 Q. Okay. Well, there's always a first for everything, unfortunately. 13:11:13 Being under -- getting deposed today in 13:11:13 front of our court reporter is the same thing as 13:11:14 9 being under oath in court, okay? So that means you 13:11:15 10 13:11:18 11 take an oath to tell the truth. You understand -- I just want to confirm 13:11:21 12 your understanding. You understand you're under 13:11:22 13 13:11:24 14 oath and that being under oath in front of our 13:11:26 15 court reporter is the same thing as being under 13:11:45 16 oath in the federal court, who supervises this 13:11:45 17 case. 13:11:45 18 Α. Yes. All right. Are you taking any 13:11:46 19 Q. medication today that would interfere with your 13:11:48 20 ability to testify or interfere with your memory of 13:11:50 21 events in this case? 13:11:52 22 13:11:53 23 A. No.

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13:11:53 1 Q. All right. So we're going to start 2 with the big question in my mind, is how did you 13:11:55 even learn about this lawsuit. 13:11:58 3 I believe I was delivered a summons or 13:11:59 Α. 4 13:12:04 a -- what do you call the kind the guy brings to 13:12:08 6 you? 13:12:08 Q. Subpoena. The subpoena, that's right. 13:12:09 8 Α. 9 All right. So that would have been the 13:12:10 Q. first subpoena you received. 13:12:11 10 13:12:13 11 Α. Yes. 13:12:13 12 Would have been from FCA US's lawyers, 0. 13:12:16 13 correct? 13:12:16 14 Α. I don't recall who it was from, to be 13:12:18 15 honest with you. 13:12:18 16 0. All right. But that was a subpoena --I think you were supposed to testify at some point 13:12:20 17 last month. 13:12:22 18 13:12:24 19 I received one prior to that, several Α. months back, where they had -- somebody had just 13:12:29 20 requested copies of the invoices. 13:12:32 21 13:12:35 22 Okay. Q. 13:12:36 23 A. I don't recall who that was. I know

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13:12:37	1	I I faxed	them to somebody	
13:12:39	2	Q.	Okay.	
13:12:40	3	A.	but I don't recall if it was	
13:12:43	4	Q.	All right. I do remember that from	
13:12:45	5	from this ca	se.	
13:12:46	6	A.	Right.	
13:12:47	7	Q.	I don't know if that came from us or	
13:12:49	8	I believe it	came from Chrysler, but I don't know	
13:12:50	9	for sure.		
13:12:51	10	How a	bout how about a subpoena that you	
13:12:53	11	had to show	up and talk about what happened with	
13:12:58	12	Mr. Hromowyk	's car?	
13:12:59	13	A.	I had received one maybe two months	
13:13:01	14	ago, and it	was postponed or adjourned or whatever	
13:13:04	15	it may have	been.	
13:13:05	16	Q.	Okay.	
13:13:05	17	A.	And	
13:13:06	18	Q.	And go ahead, I'm sorry.	
13:13:08	19	A.	And then I received another one a week	
13:13:10	20	ago today.		
13:13:11	21	Q.	Okay. And that was from us.	
13:13:13	22	A.	Yes.	
13:13:13	23	Q.	And the first one you received to show	

			Brown - Keach - 10-8-19	10
13:13:15	1	up was from	FCA US's counsel.	
13:13:17	2	Α.	Yes.	
13:13:17	3	Q.	So you've never talked to me before	
13:13:19	4	today, have	you?	
13:13:20	5	Α.	No.	
13:13:20	6	Q.	All right. And there are a series of	
13:13:23	7	Plaintiffs'	lawyers involved in this case, so I'm	
13:13:25	8	just going '	to go over who they are and see whether	`
13:13:28	9	you've talk	ed to them as well.	
13:13:29	10	There	e's a lawyer named Nick Migliaccio in	
13:13:32	11	Washington.	Have you ever spoken to him?	
13:13:34	12	A.	No.	
13:13:34	13	Q.	How about Jason Rathod in Washington?	
13:13:37	14	Α.	No.	
13:13:38	15	Q.	Gary Graifman.	
13:13:39	16	Α.	No.	
13:13:40	17	Q.	Jay Brody.	
13:13:41	18	Α.	No.	
13:13:42	19	Q.	Jay Brody and Gary Graifman are	
13:13:43	20	somewhere in	n the vicinity of White Plains, New	
13:13:46	21	York.		
13:13:46	22	Α.	No.	
13:13:46	23	Q.	All right. How about a guy named Gary	,

Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 11 13:13:48 Mason? He's from Washington, D.C. 1 13:13:49 2 Α. No. Dan Calvert? He's from Florida. 13:13:50 3 Q. 13:13:53 Α. No. 4 13:13:53 5 All right. Have you talked to any Q. 13:13:55 6 lawyers from -- that represent FCA US? I don't believe I have. 13:13:57 All right. Well, there's been an 13:13:58 8 affidavit submitted to -- to me and to the Court in 9 13:14:00 13:14:04 10 this case that bears your signature. 13:14:06 11 Do you remember signing an affidavit? No, I don't know if I do, unless it was 13:14:10 12 the time that I had faxed over that information the 13:14:14 13 13:14:17 14 first time around. 13:14:19 15 Q. Okay. 13:14:23 16 Α. That was quite a while back. 13:14:27 17 Give me just a moment. Q. Okay. I have a declaration here that is 13:14:40 18 13:14:42 19 purported to have been signed by you on August 21st 13:14:46 20 of this year. Oh, would that be --13:14:47 21 Α. And a declaration is like -- it's a --13:14:49 22 Q. 13:14:52 23 it's a form that you -- that basically you say,

12 13:14:55 "Okay, here's what my testimony is," and then 1 13:14:57 you --That's correct. I guess I don't know 13:14:57 the terminology as far as --13:14:58 4 13:15:00 5 Q. That's no problem. 13:15:01 6 Α. Okay. 13:15:01 Q. Okay. And so how did it come to pass that you signed that declaration? 13:15:04 I received a -- I don't recall if it 9 Α. 13:15:06 was a phone call or an email from -- I believe it 13:15:09 10 13:15:15 11 was him. I don't know if I can ask him. Anything you've talked with him about, 13:15:18 12 Q. I'm allowed to get into today. He's not your 13:15:19 13 13:15:22 14 lawyer. 13:15:22 15 Α. Right. No, I know. It would be no different if you and I 13:15:24 16 0. spoke and he asked you questions about what you and 13:15:24 17 I talked about. 13:15:25 18 13:15:25 19 Yes, it was -- it was you who sent me Α. those emails, I'm almost 90 percent sure, 13:15:28 20 13:15:31 21 originally. 13:15:32 22 Q. All right. So Mr. Azar sent you 13:15:35 23 emails.

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13:15:35 1 Α. Yes. 2 And what did those emails say, in words 13:15:35 or substance? 13:15:38 3 He was trying to -- he -- this was Α. 13:15:41 4 before the case was adjourned, and he had said that 13:15:45 5 13:15:47 6 somebody might not be able to make it, so he was 13:15:50 trying to handle the matter, what he could, at that 13:15:52 point. So I think I sent him copies of the receipts 9 13:15:53 that I had involving the vehicle in question, and I 13:15:56 10 13:16:01 11 gave him a phone -- he asked me some questions over the phone, and then he wrote them down, sent me a 13:16:04 12 copy of that. When I -- and that I would have 13:16:08 13 13:16:13 14 signed and then sent back to him. 13:16:14 15 Q. Okay. So what exactly did Mr. Azar ask 13:16:18 16 you over the phone? 13:16:18 17 He asked me about each time the vehicle was in, that it had a tire pressure monitor repair, 13:16:22 18 13:16:26 19 if I knew -- if I recalled why, and asked me if I was ever requested to save the old parts. 13:16:32 20 13:16:37 21 Maybe the cause of failure. I don't quite 13:16:39 22 recall, but --13:16:40 23 Q. Okay. Well, let's talk about if I

14 13:16:45 bring my car over to your shop to get it repaired, 1 13:16:48 2 and I come in, and it's a -- you need to replace some part on my vehicle. 13:16:51 3 Α. Yes. 13:16:51 4 13:16:53 5 Let's just say, for the sake of Q. 13:16:55 6 argument, that I have bad spark plugs, all right? 13:16:57 Α. Okay. 13:16:59 8 I mean, you see that kind of problem all the time, people who need spark plugs replaced, 13:17:00 9 right? 13:17:04 10 13:17:04 11 Α. Right. Okay. So I come in and I need my spark 13:17:04 12 plugs replaced. You're going to replace them, 13:17:07 13 13:17:09 14 right, if that's necessary? 13:17:10 15 Α. Yes. And then what do you do with the old 13:17:11 16 0. 13:17:12 17 spark plugs? Throw them in the trash. 13:17:13 18 Α. 13:17:15 19 Okay. And that happens all the time, Q. 13:17:17 20 right? 13:17:17 21 Α. Yes. 13:17:18 22 Okay. And that would happen no matter Q. 13:17:20 23 what the part is, correct?

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13:17:21 1 Α. Yes. 13:17:21 2 All right. So if we're talking Q. about -- if I come in and I have defective tire 13:17:24 3 pressure monitoring system modules, same thing. 13:17:27 4 13:17:30 They're going in the trash, right? 5 13:17:33 6 Α. Yes. Unless you ask me beforehand to 13:17:35 7 save parts on any job, no matter what it might be, they'll go in the trash. 13:17:38 9 0. Okay. And just so we're clear, it 13:17:39 doesn't matter what the part is, right? Brake 13:17:41 10 13:17:43 11 pads, you know --13:17:44 12 Α. Right. 13:17:45 13 Q. -- pistons? 13:17:46 14 Α. Yes. There's one or two people a year 13:17:48 15 that might ask to see their old parts or us to save them, but everything goes in the trash pretty much 13:17:52 16 13:17:53 17 immediately. All right. And I bet those one or two 13:17:54 18 Q. people a year are installing lift kits, maybe? 13:17:56 19 13:17:59 20 Well, yes, something like that, but Α. occasionally, if we're replacing a defective or a 13:18:00 21 13:18:03 22 faulty part, somebody might ask to see it.

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people are just curious as to what it looks like or

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		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
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13:18:08	1	something like that, but we don't get that very
13:18:10	2	often at all.
13:18:11	3	Q. Okay. Well, let's just step back. And
13:18:15	4	I'm going to call him if you could help me
13:18:18	5	pronounce his last name so I can do it properly.
13:18:18	6	A. I call it Hromowyk.
13:18:21	7	Q. Hromowyk. That is correct.
13:18:21	8	A. I don't know if that's right or not,
13:18:23	9	but I think it is.
13:18:24	10	Q. That is correct. It's Hromowyk.
13:18:25	11	All right. So my understanding is
13:18:28	12	Mr. Hromowyk brings all his vehicles over to you to
13:18:29	13	get repaired; fair to say?
13:18:29	14	A. Yes.
13:18:30	15	$oldsymbol{Q}$. Okay. And so so you know him and
13:18:33	16	you know his cars, right?
13:18:34	17	A. Yes.
13:18:34	18	Q. Okay. Do you have any recollection
13:18:37	19	about Mr. Hromowyk asking to have his tire pressure
13:18:41	20	monitoring system modules given back to him?
13:18:43	21	A. No, I don't, but that's not my position
13:18:46	22	at the shop where I handle the customers, so the
13:18:51	23	the service manager would have been the one to talk

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13:18:55 1 with him about that.

Typically if somebody wants us to save an old part, he'll make a note of it on the invoice, on -- on what's called the technician worksheet, which is the work order that the technician will get in the shop, and on that it will say save old parts.

- Q. Okay.
- **A.** So --
- Q. But that doesn't always happen, right?
- A. Very -- that happens -- people don't want the old parts very often, right.
- Q. I mean, does it always happen where somebody writes on the invoice save old parts?
 - A. Only if it's requested.
- Q. All right. But can you tell me that happened -- well, let me just step back.

Mr. Hromowyk had three of the four TPMS modules on his car removed by your shop and then replaced. The fourth one was the first TPMS module that he had that failed, and that was when he was driving down I-90 at around 60 miles an hour by Erie and had to change his tire on the side of the

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13:19:51 1 road. So that one he doesn't have, but his other 2 13:19:52 three TPMS modules he has, and he's given them to 13:19:54 3 my colleague, Gary Graifman in White Plains, and 13:19:57 13:20:02 then we have also offered Chrysler's lawyers to 5 13:20:05 6 inspect those parts, and they have declined to do so, instead maintaining to the Court that we've 13:20:09 destroyed them or that Mr. Hromowyk destroyed them. 13:20:10 13:20:10 9 Α. Right. Now, that's going to be the subject of 13:20:11 10 Q. 13:20:13 11 what will be a very heated proceeding in front of Judge D'Agostino, and unfortunately, you may well 13:20:17 12 be in the middle of that. 13:20:19 13 13:20:20 14 MR. AZAR: Object to the form. 13:20:20 15 BY MR. KEACH: So -- but just to -- that's to give you 13:20:21 16 0. 13:20:23 17 the background. 13:20:23 18 So Mr. Hromowyk -- there's no question he has three of his four TPMS modules, and those three 13:20:25 19 13:20:29 20 TPMS modules were removed and replaced by your body

MR. AZAR: Object to the form.

BY MR. KEACH:

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shop.

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13:20:35	1	Q. So I looked at the receipts, and I
13:20:40	2	don't see that on any of the three work receipts
13:20:42	3	involving change giving back the TPMS modules.
13:20:46	4	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:20:48	5	THE WITNESS: It's possible. Like I said, I
13:20:50	6	don't I don't run the office, so the manager
13:20:52	7	does that that that deals with the customer. It
13:20:55	8	is possible that he asked him to save them and it's
13:20:58	9	not on the order. That that I really can't
13:21:00	10	speak for that myself.
13:21:02	11	And I do believe that one of the receipts
13:21:05	12	states right on it for the TPMS module to save old
13:21:09	13	parts.
13:21:09	14	BY MR. KEACH:
13:21:09	15	Q. Okay. Well, are let me see what you
13:21:12	16	have there so I can check it out.
13:21:14	17	Did you bring those with you on your own
13:21:16	18	accord, or were you given them today?
13:21:18	19	A. I'm sorry?
		D' 1
13:21:19	20	Q. Did you bring those with you on your
13:21:19		own accord?
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		20
13:21:25	1	Q. Okay. All right. I don't want you to
13:21:35	2	think to yourself on the record, okay, so just
13:21:37	3	avoid you know, if you're looking at these
13:21:40	4	things, don't say anything. Just look at them and
13:21:42	5	tell me when you're ready to proceed.
13:21:44	6	A. I'm ready.
13:21:45	7	Q. Okay. You have one of the receipts
13:21:46	8	that has that note on it?
13:21:48	9	A. Yes, I do.
13:21:48	10	Q. Okay. And what date is that receipt?
13:21:51	11	A. 4/11 of 2019.
13:21:53	12	$oldsymbol{Q}$. Okay. Now, just to to step back for
13:21:59	13	just a moment, the only way that Mr. Hromowyk would
13:22:05	14	have his TPMS modules is if he asked you to save
13:22:08	15	them after the repair; is that fair to say?
13:22:11	16	A. Yes.
13:22:11	17	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:22:11	18	BY MR. KEACH:
13:22:12	19	Q. It's not like, you know, you guys for
13:22:14	20	some strange reason would repair would, you
13:22:17	21	know, keep a defective part for a customer.
13:22:19	22	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:22:19	23	BY MR. KEACH:

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13:22:20	1	Q. Fair to say?
13:22:21	2	A. That's fair to say, yes.
13:22:22	3	Q. Okay. So we can assume well, do you
13:22:25	4	agree with me that it is true that if Mr. Hromowyk
13:22:29	5	has two of the three TPMS modules in in his
13:22:33	6	possession and in the possession of his counsel
13:22:37	7	that were removed by your body shop, that he made a
13:22:39	8	request to your body shop to do that?
13:22:41	9	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:22:42	10	THE WITNESS: I I can only assume that
13:22:45	11	that is true. I I didn't personally give them
13:22:48	12	to him, and I $$ and like I said, I was not the
13:22:50	13	person who would have dealt with him when he came
13:22:52	14	in. The only thing that I know is and what I
13:22:54	15	can look at on paper is when he requested it.
13:22:58	16	BY MR. KEACH:
13:22:58	17	Q. Okay.
13:22:58	18	A. So
13:23:05	19	Q. All right. And so do you know who
13:23:07	20	let's go back to the to the first occasion.
13:23:09	21	And I'm going to ask you to help me walk
13:23:12	22	through these documents, because you have, you
13:23:14	23	know, obviously, a better understanding of these

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
13:23:17	1	things than I do.
13:23:17	2	When is the first occasion that Mr. Hromowyk
13:23:20	3	had a TPMS module replaced at your body shop?
13:23:26	4	So I've got a I've got an invoice here
13:23:28	5	that's from 4/11/2019.
13:23:33	6	MR. AZAR: Mr. Keach, do you want to the
13:23:35	7	witness is consulting documents, and I don't
13:23:37	8	believe they've been marked for the record.
13:23:39	9	MR. KEACH: It's my examination. You can
13:23:40	10	object to the form.
13:23:41	11	MR. AZAR: I object to the form, and I
13:23:42	12	object to the witness is referring to documents.
13:23:45	13	Let the record reflect that.
13:23:46	14	MR. KEACH: Whatever. You can handle it in
13:23:48	15	your own examination. You can object to the form.
13:23:54	16	BY MR. KEACH:
13:23:54	17	Q. Okay. So I've got an invoice 4/11.
13:23:58	18	I've got an invoice 8/4/2015.
13:24:03	19	A. I believe the first time would have
13:24:05	20	been 7/27/2015. Oh, that's a repair kit. That's
13:24:18	21	just a valve.
13:24:19	22	So the actual
13:24:32	23	Q. All right. I'll tell you what. We're
	- 1	

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		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
		23
13:24:34	1	going to put all these we're going to mark these
13:24:37	2	things and put them all up so that there's no
13:24:39	3	misunderstanding, okay?
13:24:40	4	So give me just a moment to get there, and
13:24:42	5	then we can walk through them together.
13:24:42	6	The following was marked for Identification:
	7	HROMOWYK EXH. QQ invoice number 72822 dated
	8	04/11/2019
13:27:46	9	BY MR. KEACH:
13:27:47	10	Q. All right. Now, just for the sake of
13:28:10	11	continuity, we're going to refer to the first
13:28:10	12	invoice I have here as Hromowyk Exhibit QQ, okay,
13:28:10	13	because we had a deposition before.
13:28:10	14	I'm going to pull this and a lot of these
13:28:10	15	were already marked during Mr. Hromowyk's
13:28:10	16	deposition, and I don't have copies of those on my
13:28:10	17	trial pad here, but we're going to put this up for
13:28:11	18	you on the screen in front of you.
13:28:11	19	So just confirm that you've got an image
13:28:15	20	there.
13:28:15	21	A. Yes, I do.
13:28:15	22	Q. Okay. Now, this is an invoice that was
13:28:18	23	dated 4/11/2019 when Mr. Hromowyk had his tire

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	ı	Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
		24
13:28:22	1	pressure monitoring system on one of his one of
13:28:25	2	his tires replaced by your dealership, correct?
13:28:28	3	A. Yes.
13:28:29	4	Q. Okay. And this is the receipt that
13:28:33	5	you're talking about that states, in words or
13:28:35	6	substance, replace replace TPMS sensor and then
13:28:40	7	save broken TPMS sensor, correct?
13:28:42	8	A. Yes.
13:28:42	9	Q. All right. Now, do you know who did
13:28:44	10	this work? And I can move it down. At the bottom
13:28:51	11	here, it's
13:28:51	12	A. Yes, it says it will say right on
13:28:53	13	there, if you can enlarge it.
13:28:55	14	Q. Okay. I can enlarge it for you.
13:28:57	15	A. Scroll up. All the way to the bottom
13:28:59	16	of the page.
13:29:00	17	Q. All the way to the bottom of the page.
13:29:01	18	Okay.
13:29:02	19	A. Technician is Bob
13:29:04	20	Q. Bob
13:29:05	21	A Bob Leman.
13:29:10	22	Q. Okay. And so does Bob Leman still work
13:29:13	23	for you?

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		23
13:29:13	1	A. Yes, he does.
13:29:14	2	Q. And prior to filling out this affidavit
13:29:16	3	that Mr. Azar asked you to complete, did you talk
13:29:19	4	with Bob Leman about his conversations with
13:29:22	5	Mr. Hromowyk?
13:29:23	6	A. No, Bob would have no communication
13:29:25	7	with the customer whatsoever. He's a technician.
13:29:28	8	Q. Okay. So he's the guy back in the
13:29:29	9	A. In the shop.
13:29:30	10	Q. He's in the shop changing stuff.
13:29:31	11	A. Exactly.
13:29:32	12	Q. So who would have the communication
13:29:34	13	with the customer to reflect what should or should
13:29:38	14	not be done with the part?
13:29:40	15	A. At that time, where it states service
13:29:42	16	advisor on the receipt, Scott Miceli.
13:29:45	17	Q. Where would I see that? At the bottom?
13:29:46	18	A. That was right next to Bob's name.
13:29:48	19	Q. Okay. Scott Miceli. So he's the guy
13:29:50	20	that kind of works in the front and helps
13:29:52	21	everybody?
13:29:52	22	A. He's no longer there, but he was the
13:29:54	23	guy at that time.

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13:29:54	1	Q. All right.	
13:29:55	2	A. That's correct.	
13:29:56	3	Q. Did you talk to Scott about what's	
13:29:58	4	reflected in in Exhibit QQ before making your	
13:30:02	5	affidavit on behalf of FCA US?	
13:30:06	6	A. No.	
13:30:06	7	Q. And so you don't so as you sit here	:
13:30:09	8	today, you don't know what conversations were had	
13:30:12	9	between between you know, between that	
13:30:16	10	gentleman and Mr. Hromowyk at the time that he	
13:30:17	11	asked that this broken TPMS sensor be saved,	
13:30:20	12	correct?	
13:30:21	13	A. That's correct.	
13:30:21	14	Q. All right. And, you know, when you	
13:30:25	15	guys remove parts to replace them, you're going to	1
13:30:29	16	do what you got to do to get the part out and	
13:30:31	17	replace it, right?	
13:30:32	18	A. Yes.	
13:30:32	19	Q. Okay. Are you in the business of, you	L
13:30:34	20	know, hey, if you know a part's broken, you're	
13:30:36	21	going to beat it up or use a hammer on it or	
13:30:39	22	anything like that to beat the stuffing out of it	
13:30:42	23	just for a good time?	

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13:30:42	1	A. No. Sometimes those fall apart when
13:30:44	2	they're in really bad shape, but we won't just
13:30:47	3	smash it out of there, because it's no good.
13:30:50	4	Q. When you say those fall apart, what do
13:30:52	5	you mean?
13:30:52	6	A. They have a corrosion issue.
13:30:53	7	Q. When you say they have a corrosion
13:30:55	8	issue, what do you mean?
13:30:56	9	A. The aluminum stem of the tire pressure
13:30:59	10	monitor itself deteriorates.
13:31:01	11	Q. Okay. Well, let me just step back.
13:31:05	12	And we'll get back to these invoices in a minute.
13:31:07	13	Were you aware prior to Mr. Hromowyk first
13:31:12	14	coming to you to have his TPMS modules replaced,
13:31:14	15	which I believe is in 2000 would have been 2017,
13:31:21	16	according to the receipts, but we'll get to that in
13:31:24	17	a moment.
13:31:24	18	Were you aware that this the type of
13:31:27	19	vehicle he was driving had problems with its valve
13:31:31	20	stems?
13:31:31	21	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:31:32	22	THE WITNESS: Yes, but they're that's not
13:31:34	23	abnormal. I mean, a lot of cars have problems with

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
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13:31:37	1	the with the valve stems.
13:31:38	2	And it was 2015, his first repair. I do
13:31:42	3	have that. His first repair was August 4th of
13:31:50	4	2015.
13:31:50	5	BY MR. KEACH:
13:31:51	6	Q. All right. Well, there were a lot of
13:31:52	7	cars that were made by FCA US that had this problem
13:32:05	8	with the valve stems. Are those the cars that
13:32:08	9	you're referring to?
13:32:09	10	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:32:09	11	THE WITNESS: Yes.
13:32:10	12	BY MR. KEACH:
13:32:11	13	Q. Okay. And so these cars that you've
13:32:12	14	seen that are having problems with the valve stems,
13:32:14	15	they are Chrysler Dodge Ram cars.
13:32:17	16	A. Not only. I mean, I've seen some
13:32:19	17	foreign cars with those issues as well. I don't
13:32:22	18	know who makes them, if it's the same company.
13:32:24	19	But I will say that the the ones that
13:32:29	20	we're speaking of have a higher failure rate than
13:32:31	21	others.
13:32:32	22	Q. Okay.
13:32:33	23	A. Put it that way.

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
13:32:34	1	Q. And the ones you're speaking of would
13:32:36	2	be the vehicles that are made by FCA US.
13:32:39	3	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:32:40	4	THE WITNESS: Yes.
13:32:40	5	BY MR. KEACH:
13:32:41	6	Q. All right. So had you seen now,
13:32:42	7	Mr. Hromowyk has a mini van, and, you know, it's
13:32:49	8	a I believe his car is a Dodge Caravan, you
13:32:51	9	know, and then there were Chrysler Town & Countrys.
13:32:55	10	Did you see those certain mini vans having
13:32:59	11	problems with their valve stems in your shop?
13:33:01	12	A. Yes.
13:33:02	13	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:33:02	14	BY MR. KEACH:
13:33:03	15	Q. And did you ever talk with your
13:33:04	16	customers about why the valve stems on those
13:33:07	17	vehicles were failing?
13:33:08	18	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:33:08	19	THE WITNESS: We we tell them if it's
13:33:10	20	if there's a problem. Obviously, if we see
13:33:12	21	something that we think is not right or break, you
13:33:15	22	know, or just not good, we will call them and tell
13:33:18	23	them why, yes.

BY MR. KEACH:

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- Q. All right. Well, did you ever determine why those particular cars, meaning these mini vans that were made by FCA US, had these problems with their valve stems?
- A. Yes, like I stated before, it's a corrosion issue.
- Q. Right. I understand it's a corrosion issue, but did you ever, say, reach out to the dealership and make an inquiry of them about why these valve stems on these particular vehicles were coming into your shop failing?
 - A. No.
- Q. Did you have any knowledge about why that particular type of aluminum failed more frequently than other cars that you've seen?
- A. Not scientifically, but my guess is just that the materials it's made of and the corrosive salts and whatnot they use around this part of the country.
- Q. And do you know, sir, how many times, say, in a year -- and I understand this is going to be an approximation, and we can do it by order of

magnitude, too, if you like, where I'll ask, "Hey, is it between 10 and 20 or a hundred and 200?"

We'll try to nail it down that way.

But can you tell me how many times a year you see mini vans made by FCA US having these type of problems with their valve stems?

MR. AZAR: Object to the form.

THE WITNESS: Maybe 10, 15 times. I mean, we don't -- we're not a mass tire installer, so we don't -- you know, a tire shop may see it more than we do, I guess, is the best way I could say it.

But -- we don't do a ton of them for -- for that reason, but we don't work on a ton of those cars as well, so --

BY MR. KEACH:

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- Q. All right. But that's something before you first -- before Tom came in with his vehicle and -- and asked you to replace his TPMS module, that's something you knew about beforehand.
- A. They were just starting to get big, I think, around 2015, because they don't fail immediately. So if you've got a car that's five years old, that's probably about the time you're

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		32
13:35:20	1	going to start to see those things.
13:35:22	2	So a 2010, you know, with an aluminum stem
13:35:27	3	probably will go several years before you start
13:35:30	4	seeing those issues.
13:35:31	5	Q. All right. Did anybody ever come in
13:35:32	6	and have their TPMS modules replaced that was
13:35:36	7	involved in a traffic accident?
13:35:38	8	\mathbf{A} . No.
13:35:38	9	Q. Did anybody ever come in and say to you
13:35:41	10	or your employees, in words or substance, that
13:35:43	11	their TPMS module failed when they were out on the
13:35:46	12	highway driving?
13:35:50	13	A. Not that I can recall.
13:35:52	14	Q. Now, would you agree with me, sir, as
13:35:55	15	someone who repairs cars, that if one of those
13:35:59	16	valve stems would fail when someone's going down
13:36:02	17	you know, going down the Thruway, that that could
13:36:05	18	create a safety issue for a driver?
13:36:08	19	A. Yes.
13:36:08	20	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:36:08	21	BY MR. KEACH:
13:36:09	22	Q. In fact, that could creat a safety

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13:36:09 23 ssue where they'd have to pull off on the side of

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19	,
		33	;
13:36:12	1	the road and try to change a tire when people are	
13:36:13	2	going by 75 miles an hour.	
13:36:15	3	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.	
13:36:15	4	BY MR. KEACH:	
13:36:16	5	Q. Fair to say?	
13:36:16	6	A. Yes.	
13:36:17	7	Q. And also could cause a vehicle to lose	
13:36:19	8	control.	
13:36:19	9	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.	
13:36:20	10	THE WITNESS: Yes.	
13:36:21	11	BY MR. KEACH:	
13:36:21	12	Q. And if you do you own any	
13:36:24	13	Chrysler or excuse me.	
13:36:24	14	Do you own any FCA US products?	
13:36:27	15	A. Actually, I own the exact same vehicle	
13:36:30	16	that Mr. Hromowyk owns.	
13:36:30	17	Q. Which is what, the Dodge	
13:36:31	18	A. Well, I have the 2010 Chrysler Town &	
13:36:34	19	Country, which is virtually the same thing as the	
13:36:38	20	Caravan.	
13:36:39	21	$oldsymbol{Q}$. And have you had problems with the	
13:36:42	22	valve stems on your Town & Country?	
13:36:44	23	A. No, I have not. I bought my Town &	

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	ı	Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
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13:36:46	1	Country from the dealer used. My thinking is that
13:36:49	2	they put four new ones in it before I got it,
13:36:52	3	because they appear to be in good condition, or
13:36:53	4	I've just never had any issues with them.
13:36:56	5	Q. All right.
13:36:58	6	A. I purchased the car used. I should say
13:37:01	7	that, yes, so
13:37:02	8	Q. So you purchase the car used?
13:37:04	9	A. From a dealer.
13:37:05	10	Q. At what point in time?
13:37:06	11	A. I've had that at least five years now,
13:37:08	12	so I would say 2014 or so.
13:37:12	13	Q. Well, you don't have any awareness
13:37:25	14	about the Chrysler Corporation at some point in
13:37:27	15	time excuse me, FCA US making a change to the
13:37:31	16	composition of the aluminum on the valve stem; fair
13:37:34	17	to say?
13:37:34	18	A. No, I do not.
13:37:36	19	Q. And you don't know when that change
13:37:37	20	occurred.
13:37:38	21	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:37:38	22	THE WITNESS: No. We actually we stopped
13:37:40	23	using the aluminum ones at one point. Now they

13:37:45 make them in rubber, which doesn't deteriorate, so 1 2 all the -- all the TPMSs we install now are rubber. 13:37:51 BY MR. KEACH: 13:37:51 Okay. When you say they make them in 13:37:56 4 Q. rubber, you mean all the manufacturers or just FCA 13:37:57 5 13:38:00 6 US or FCA US and others? Well, I'm talking about after-market, 13:38:02 Α. 13:38:05 After-market tire valve stems from a parts store like NAPA or one of those places. 13:38:08 9 Those are all rubber. 13:38:11 10 Q. 13:38:12 11 Α. They are all rubber, correct. Do you know when that change was made? 13:38:15 12 Q. They've been around for a few years. 13:38:16 13 Α. I've been putting the rubber ones in for quite a 13:38:19 14 13:38:22 15 few years. 13:38:23 16 Q. Have you ever seen a rubber valve stem 13:38:25 17 fail? It's pretty rare. 13:38:25 18 Α. 13:38:27 19 All right. Have you ever seen a valve Q. stem fail that doesn't involve some sort of damage 13:38:29 20 to the actual valve stem? 13:38:31 21 13:38:32 22 No. Α. 13:38:32 23 You've seen it where somebody, you Q.

	ļ	Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
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13:38:34	1	know, is driving their mommy mobile and hits a curb
13:38:41	2	going around a corner and bangs up the valve stem,
13:38:44	3	right?
13:38:44	4	A. Right.
13:38:45	5	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:38:45	6	THE WITNESS: That's about the only time
13:38:47	7	you'll see those fail.
13:38:47	8	BY MR. KEACH:
13:38:49	9	Q. Whereas the aluminum valve stems you
13:38:50	10	saw on Mr. Hromowyk's vehicle and others, they were
13:38:53	11	failing pretty regularly.
13:38:55	12	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:38:57	13	THE WITNESS: Yes.
13:38:57	14	BY MR. KEACH:
13:38:58	15	Q. And based on your perception as the
13:38:59	16	mechanic, these were failing because of corrosion
13:39:02	17	given the salt on the roads here in Upstate New
13:39:06	18	York.
13:39:06	19	A. Yes.
13:39:06	20	Q. And you don't have any knowledge of
13:39:10	21	of the fact that Chrysler Corporation knew that
13:39:16	22	these valve stems were defective and didn't tell
13:39:19	23	people, do you?

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
		ý.
13:39:20	1	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:39:21	2	THE WITNESS: $\mathbb{N} \circ$.
13:39:21	3	BY MR. KEACH:
13:39:21	4	Q. And you don't have any knowledge of
13:39:22	5	Chrysler or excuse me, FCA US actually doing a
13:39:26	6	cost-benefit analysis of "If we repair the valve
13:39:30	7	stems, here's how much it's going to cost versus
13:39:33	8	doing nothing."
13:39:34	9	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:39:34	10	BY MR. KEACH:
13:39:35	11	Q. You don't know anything about that, do
13:39:36	12	you?
13:39:37	13	A. No.
13:39:37	14	Q. So you don't have any knowledge that
13:39:39	15	Chrysler Corporation decided "Hey, it's going to
13:39:40	16	cost us millions of dollars to replace these valve
13:39:43	17	stems, so we're just not going to tell our dealers
13:39:45	18	or the customers or anybody else about the problems
13:39:47	19	we're having."
13:39:47	20	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:39:48	21	THE WITNESS: $N \circ$.
13:39:50	22	BY MR. KEACH:
13:39:51	23	Q. Any customers ever complain to you

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13:39:52	1	about the valve stems on the you know, on these
13:39:56	2	vehicles? Well, let me do a better job.
13:40:00	3	You come in, you got to pay a hundred bucks,
13:40:03	4	basically, to replace one of these things, right?
13:40:05	5	A. Yes.
13:40:06	6	Q. That's how much according to the
13:40:07	7	invoice that we have here that's Exhibit QQ, it
13:40:10	8	cost Mr. Hromowyk \$118.62 to replace his TPMS
13:40:16	9	module, right?
13:40:17	10	It's down at the bottom on your screen
13:40:20	11	there.
13:40:21	12	A. Yes. Can you scroll up on that one for
13:40:25	13	me?
13:40:25	14	Q. Yes, sure.
13:40:31	15	A. Yes. Yes. They've come down in price
13:40:35	16	or no, that one's a oh, that's one of the
13:40:41	17	I believe that's one of the updated valves.
13:40:44	18	Q. Okay.
13:40:44	19	A. We get them from different suppliers
13:40:46	20	when you mention that price, because some of the
13:40:48	21	times we're only \$71 or \$70 for the valve, so
13:40:52	22	$oldsymbol{Q}_{oldsymbol{\cdot}}$ All right. So had anybody ever come to
13:40:56	23	you and complained and said, "My God, you know,

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I've had multiple of these stems fail in my car. 13:40:58 1 What's the problem here?" 2 13:41:00 Object to the form. 13:41:02 MR. AZAR: THE WITNESS: Maybe a couple. I don't know 13:41:02 4 13:41:04 if they were all referring to Chrysler vehicles or 5 13:41:07 6 not, but I would say a couple people have said -mentioned their dissatisfaction with the -- with 13:41:13 the tire. 13:41:16 8 BY MR. KEACH: 13:41:16 Well, yes, I mean, you know, people --13:41:16 10 Q. 13:41:18 11 people are people. They're dissatisfied when they come to the mechanic all the time, because they've 13:41:20 12 got to pay money, right? 13:41:22 13 13:41:23 14 Nobody wants to go get their car fixed. Α. 13:41:26 15 Q. Myself included. 13:41:27 16 Α. Yes. And so -- you know, so a couple of 13:41:27 17 Q. these people said, in words or substance, you know, 13:41:30 18

Q. And so -- you know, so a couple of these people said, in words or substance, you know, "Why are these things -- why are these things going bad, why do I got to pay," basically, words or substance, right?

MR. AZAR: Object to the form.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

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		40
13:41:39	1	BY MR. KEACH:
13:41:40	2	Q. And what did you tell them?
13:41:41	3	A. Corrosion.
13:42:15	4	Q. Have you ever attempted to contact an
13:42:26	5	FCA US dealer about the valve stems on these Dodge
13:42:31	6	or Chrysler mini vans?
13:42:33	7	A. No.
13:42:33	8	Q. Do you know whether or not any people
13:42:37	9	that have come to see you have tried to contact an
13:42:39	10	FCA US dealer about these valve stems?
13:42:41	11	A. No.
13:42:42	12	Q. Do you know whether or not anybody
13:42:44	13	that you know, any of your customers have ever
13:42:47	14	called FCA US's customer care center and complained
13:42:50	15	about the valve stems on these vehicles?
13:42:51	16	A. No.
13:42:52	17	Q. Now, I want to get back to just
13:43:03	18	briefly we're going to get back to the receipts
13:43:09	19	in just a moment, but when you filled out this
13:43:12	20	affidavit pursuant to Mr. Azar's request, did he
13:43:16	21	indicate to you that we wanted to talk to you as
13:43:18	22	well?
13:43:19	23	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.

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		41
13:43:20	1	THE WITNESS: I don't recall.
13:43:21	2	BY MR. KEACH:
13:43:22	3	Q. Okay. Do you know do you remember a
13:43:24	4	guy by the name of Gary Graifman calling in to your
13:43:29	5	dealership and trying to talk to you?
13:43:30	6	A. No, I do not.
13:43:31	7	Q. Okay. All right. I'm going to show
13:44:15	8	you what we're going to mark as Exhibit RR.
13:44:15	9	The following was marked for Identification:
	10	HROMOWYK EXH. RR Exhibit D, Declaration of
	11	Jarrod Brown
13:44:21	12	BY MR. KEACH:
13:44:22	13	Q. Okay. Have you got that on your screen
13:44:25	14	there? It should stay Exhibit D, and it has an
13:44:25	15	Exhibit sticker at the bottom?
13:44:30	16	Do you have the page in front of you, sir?
13:44:31	17	A. Nothing's up on my thing.
13:44:33	18	Q. Nothing's up on your thing.
13:44:35	19	A. There we go, Exhibit D.
13:44:37	20	Q. Okay. And so this is Exhibit RR. This
13:44:39	21	is a document that FCA US filed attempting actually
13:44:44	22	to sanction my office and my co-counsel claiming
13:44:47	23	that we somehow were involved in the destruction of

	ı	Brown - Keach - 10-8-19	4.0
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13:44:50	1	these valve stems.	
13:44:51	2	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.	
13:44:51	3	BY MR. KEACH:	
13:44:52	4	Q. Which probably, when we're done with	
13:44:54	5	your testimony today, I'll be firing off a Rule 11	L
13:45:01	6	letter to them detailing my satisfaction and	
13:45:03	7	cross-moving for sanctions against them once I get	-
13:45:06	8	leave from the Court.	
13:45:07	9	But these things being said, you know, this	3
13:45:10	10	was filed, again, in a proceeding claiming that	-
13:45:12	11	that Mr. Hromowyk, your customer, had was	
13:45:15	12	involved in an effort to destroy evidence in this	
13:45:19	13	consumer class action case, and your affidavit is	
13:45:22	14	being used for the purposes of demonstrating that.	
13:45:26	15	You didn't know that before you provided	
13:45:28	16	this affidavit to FCA US, did you?	
13:45:31	17	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.	
13:45:31	18	THE WITNESS: I don't believe so.	
13:45:33	19	BY MR. KEACH:	
13:45:34	20	Q. Okay. And if you had known that befor	îe
13:45:35	21	you provided this affidavit to FCA US, would you	
13:45:38	22	have done so?	
13:45:39	23	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.	

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13:45:39	1	THE WITNESS: Probably not without some	
13:45:41	2	counsel first.	
13:45:41	3	BY MR. KEACH:	
13:45:42	4	Q. Yes, that brings up an interesting	
13:45:44	5	point. Did Mr. Azar invite you to get your own	
13:45:47	6	lawyer before filling this out?	
13:45:49	7	A. No, but I did speak with my own lawyer	· .
13:45:52	8	prior on my own.	
13:45:53	9	Q. Okay.	
13:45:54	10	A. Before this.	
13:45:54	11	Q. Did Mr. Azar tell you that you may be	
13:45:56	12	required to testify in person at a spoliation	
13:45:59	13	hearing in Albany as a result of your affidavit?	
13:46:01	14	A. Not that I recall.	
13:46:02	15	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.	
13:46:02	16	BY MR. KEACH:	
13:46:03	17	Q. Did Mr. Azar tell you that that	
13:46:06	18	that the Plaintiffs' counsel wanted to take your	
13:46:09	19	testimony as well so that we could have an informe	ed
13:46:12	20	discussion about what went on?	
13:46:13	21	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.	
13:46:14	22	THE WITNESS: I don't recall that.	
13:46:15	23	BY MR. KEACH:	
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13:46:16	1	Q. Okay. Well, let's go how many times
13:46:23	2	did you talk on the phone with Mr. Azar?
13:46:28	3	A. I believe most of our communication was
13:46:30	4	email. Maybe once or twice. I can't remember, if
13:46:36	5	at all. Did I?
13:46:42	6	I can't remember if I ever spoke to him on
13:46:44	7	the phone or not. I may have; I may not have. I
13:46:46	8	know we communicated with emails, and I'm I
13:46:49	9	don't recall.
13:46:49	10	Q. And do you have a copy of those emails?
13:46:53	11	A. Well, probably somewhere, yes.
13:46:55	12	Q. All right. I mean, I'm assuming you
13:46:59	13	could look through your emails and use the search
13:47:02	14	term Azar and find all Tom's emails.
13:47:04	15	A. Yes, I can find those.
13:47:05	16	Q. Because unless you're talking about a
13:47:08	17	bazaar, you know, there's really no other word
13:47:11	18	choice for Azar. That's a unique last name.
13:47:14	19	A. No, it would definitely be in there. I
13:47:16	20	don't delete anything or go around
13:47:17	21	Q. All right. I'm going to follow up with
13:47:19	22	a short letter to you. If you need me to send you
13:47:22	23	a subpoena, I will. Hopefully you don't need that,

45 13:47:25 and I'm going to ask you send those on to me so 1 13:47:28 2 that I can look at them, okay? 13:47:29 3 Α. Okay. All right. And so let's talk about 13:47:30 4 Q. point 2 in your affidavit, which you have in front 13:47:39 5 13:47:42 6 of you, again, as Exhibit RR. 13:47:46 Do you see this in front of you --Yes, I do. 13:47:47 8 Α. -- on the screen? Okay. So we're 9 13:47:48 13:47:50 10 going to call that out for you. 13:47:52 11 Okav. Under Brownie's normal practice, if a customer requests that a removed part or component 13:47:55 12 be returned to the customer after service is 13:47:57 13 13:48:00 14 completed, that request will be specifically noted 13:48:02 15 in the labor description portion of the customer's invoice, correct? 13:48:04 16 13:48:05 17 Α. Yes. 13:48:05 18 **Q**. And we have -- you and I, working together talking today, have established that if 13:48:07 19 Mr. Hromowyk has these TPMS modules in his 13:48:11 20 possession, that what happened on that occasion is 13:48:15 21 whoever filled out the paperwork just didn't note 13:48:18 22 13:48:21 23 it; fair to say?

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13:48:22	1	MR. AZAR: Object to the form. Assumes
13:48:23	2	facts not in evidence.
13:48:24	3	MR. KEACH: You can object to the form.
13:48:25	4	BY MR. KEACH:
13:48:26	5	Q. Go ahead. You can answer the question.
13:48:27	6	A. That's what I can assume, is that he
13:48:29	7	asked for them and it was not noted on the invoice.
13:48:31	8	It should be. That's our our standard
13:48:33	9	practice. That's the way mistakes don't happen.
13:48:36	10	When somebody asks you to do something, the service
13:48:38	11	writer should put it on the invoice so it's not a
13:48:41	12	matter of it being in everybody's memory.
13:48:44	13	Q. All right. I understand and appreciate
13:48:46	14	that.
13:48:46	15	A. That's the proper way to do it.
13:48:48	16	Q. But you're repairing in your dealership
13:48:50	17	what, 30, 40 cars a day? Or not in your
13:48:50	18	dealership, excuse me. In your shop?
13:48:53	19	A. Yes, no, we're we're a smaller auto
13:48:55	20	repair shop, and we probably do 10 to 15 cars a
13:48:59	21	day.
13:48:59	22	Q. All right. But so if you do 10 to
13:49:01	23	15 cars a day, that's over 3,000 cars a year.

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13:49:03	1	A. Sure.
13:49:04	2	Q. Okay. And so so I just want to be
13:49:07	3	clear:
13:49:08	4	Did Mr. Azar tell you before he asked you to
13:49:10	5	fill out this affirmation that the three valve
13:49:16	6	stems in question that were that were replaced
13:49:18	7	by your body shop were in the custody of the
13:49:22	8	Plaintiffs' counsel?
13:49:23	9	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:49:24	10	THE WITNESS: I don't recall that.
13:49:25	11	BY MR. KEACH:
13:49:25	12	Q. Okay. Did he tell you that FCA US had
13:49:29	13	been given a specific offer by the Plaintiffs'
13:49:32	14	counsel to come and view these valve stems at their
13:49:35	15	leisure or have their expert witness look at them?
13:49:38	16	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:49:39	17	THE WITNESS: No.
13:49:39	18	BY MR. KEACH:
13:49:40	19	Q. No. All right. So if you would have
13:49:42	20	known that Mr. Hromowyk three of Mr. Hromowyk's
13:49:48	21	valve stems were in the custody of the Plaintiffs'
13:49:50	22	counsel, would you have filled out this affidavit
13:49:52	23	as as you've detailed here?

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13:49:54	1	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:49:54	2	THE WITNESS: I don't know, to be honest
13:49:57	3	with you. The the the one that I I got
13:50:02	4	before, I I sent a copy to my attorney just to
13:50:05	5	glance at it for me, and they told me, you know,
13:50:07	6	just go in and you know, with the information
13:50:09	7	that was there.
13:50:09	8	BY MR. KEACH:
13:50:10	9	Q. Don't tell me what your lawyer told
13:50:12	10	you.
13:50:12	11	A. Okay. I don't know what I should say,
13:50:15	12	then.
13:50:15	13	Q. Let me do a better job, because I don't
13:50:18	14	want to violate the privilege that you have with
13:50:19	15	your counsel.
13:50:20	16	A. Sure.
13:50:20	17	Q. Okay? So I can ask you a series of yes
13:50:23	18	or no questions that I think will address this
13:50:24	19	without you having to reveal what you talked about
13:50:26	20	with your lawyer, okay?
13:50:27	21	A. Okay.
13:50:28	22	Q. You sent this to your lawyer. He took
13:50:29	23	a look at it.

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13:50:30	1	A. Yes.
13:50:31	2	Q. And then your lawyer indicated that he
13:50:35	3	didn't have any problem with you signing this.
13:50:37	4	A. Yes.
13:50:38	5	Q. Okay. Well, so going back to my prior
13:50:50	6	question, I know I think your answer was "I
13:50:52	7	don't know."
13:50:53	8	You know, did you talk to Tom before you
13:50:54	9	before you signed this?
13:50:56	10	A. Mr. Hromowyk?
13:50:56	11	Q. Yes.
13:50:56	12	A. No, I did not.
13:50:58	13	Q. All right. And did you know about this
13:50:59	14	lawsuit well, I mean, you knew about it because
13:51:02	15	you got a subpoena for documents. Did you know
13:51:05	16	about it beforehand by talking to Tom
13:51:08	17	Mr. Hromowyk?
13:51:08	18	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:51:09	19	THE WITNESS: No, I did not, but I
13:51:11	20	personally don't believe I've actually spoken to
13:51:15	21	Mr. Hromowyk in probably a couple years, because I
13:51:17	22	don't I don't work the office, as I said, that
13:51:19	23	part of the shop, so I don't interact as much with

50 13:51:22 1 the customers as the service manager would. 13:51:25 2 BY MR. KEACH: All right. And is -- if somebody comes 13:51:25 in and says, "Hey, I want to keep the parts," are 13:51:28 4 13:51:30 they required to give you a reason why that's the 5 13:51:32 6 case? 13:51:33 Α. No. 13:51:33 8 All right. And just so I'm clear, you're going to do the amount of work -- as the 13:51:35 9 mechanic, you're going to do the amount of work 13:51:38 10 13:51:41 11 necessary to remove that part to -- to replace it; fair to say? 13:51:46 12 13:51:46 13 Α. Yes. 13:51:47 14 Q. You're not going to be in the business 13:51:48 15 of gratuitously damaging -- damaging a part to get 13:51:53 16 it out of the car. 13:51:54 17 Α. Absolutely not. 13:51:55 18 Unless you have to. Q. 13:51:56 19 If it's stuck and jammed, maybe you Α. have to beat it out of there, but for the most 13:51:59 20 13:52:01 21 part, we're not hammer mechanics. That's not --13:52:04 22 you know, that's not what we do, so --13:52:06 23 If there was some sort of a problem

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Q.

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13:52:09 where a -- you know, there had to be some hammering 1 done and that type of thing, would that be 2 13:52:12 reflected in the invoice given to the customer? 13:52:14 Α. No. 13:52:16 4 13:52:16 5 All right. How about if you had to --Q. 13:52:18 you know, the only reason I know this is from my 13:52:22 Jeep, you know. Like I've been told, given the 13:52:28 amount of rust I have on the bottom of my Jeep from off-roading, that if I want to replace certain 13:52:33 9 parts in the future, they're going to have to fire 13:52:35 10 13:52:37 11 up the blowtorch and melt them off. If you do that type of work to get rid of a 13:52:39 12 part, is that going to be reflected on the invoice? 13:52:41 13 13:52:44 14 A. No. 13:52:44 15 Even if it requires more labor? Q. 13:52:47 16 Because I'm assuming melting off a part is going to take additional time. 13:52:49 17 13:52:50 18 We -- we pretty well stick to our Α. estimates. Like we know what's -- what something's 13:52:55 19 going to take when we do it, and if a job calls for 13:52:58 20 an hour and a half labor, let's say, and I know I'm 13:53:01 21

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going to have to get the torch out and do this and

that, I'll -- I'll quote that in the initial job,

13:53:03 22

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13:53:09	1	you know, when I when I sell the job, when the
13:53:12	2	customer's called, you know what I mean?
13:53:14	3	But we won't go into detail with them
13:53:14	4	saying, "Well, you know, we got to get the torch
13:53:14	5	out, we got to melt this, so it's going to cost you
13:53:19	6	40 bucks more." We just give them the price type
13:53:21	7	of deal.
13:53:21	8	Q. Got you.
13:53:22	9	A. We would never use a torch on a tire
13:53:24 1	LO	pressure monitor.
13:53:25 1	L1	Q. Right. I'm just using that as a point
13:53:27 1	L2	of reference so I can understand what you do.
13:53:30 1	L3	A. Got you.
13:53:31 1	L4	Q. You're going to do what you need to do
13:53:32 1	L5	to get the part off, and then if the customer wants
13:53:35 1	L6	it back, you give it to him, right?
13:53:37 1	L7	A. Yes. Yes.
13:53:37 1	L8	Q. You're not going to be in the business
13:53:38 1	L9	of "Well, hey, Tom Hromowyk wants his part back, so
13:53:40 2	20	let's take a hammer to it and crack at it before we
13:53:43 2	21	give it back to him"; fair to say?
13:53:44 2	22	A. Absolutely not, yes.
13:53:45 2	23	Q. All right. So let's go to paragraph 3.

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13:53:51	1	Well, let me step back. And I want to just circle
13:53:56	2	back to this.
13:53:58	3	If you knew that Mr. Hromowyk had three of
13:54:03	4	the all three of the valve stems that your
13:54:05	5	dealership removed from his car, would that have
13:54:09	6	changed your willingness to fill out this
13:54:12	7	affidavit
13:54:12	8	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:54:12	9	BY MR. KEACH:
13:54:13	10	Q for FCA US?
13:54:16	11	A. No, I don't believe it really would
13:54:18	12	have, because if the I don't I actually don't
13:54:25	13	see why it would have.
13:54:26	14	I mean, if a customer asked for his old
13:54:29	15	parts and he has them, I don't I wouldn't see
13:54:32	16	the harm, I guess, in
13:54:35	17	Q. In in what?
13:54:36	18	A. In filling out the affidavit.
13:54:38	19	Q. Okay. Well, if you knew that Tom had
13:54:41	20	all three of his valve stems, would that have
13:54:44	21	changed what you were willing to affirm?
13:54:45	22	Because what you've affirmed here and
13:54:47	23	I'll just step back and make clear I'm not accusing

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 54
13:54:50	1	you of any wrongdoing, but what you've affirmed
13:54:53	2	here is affirmed under penalty of perjury.
13:54:56	3	You know, would you have taken a different
13:54:58	4	look at this, filling out this affidavit, if you
13:55:01	5	knew that Tom had these parts?
13:55:02	6	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:55:03	7	THE WITNESS: I I don't believe I would
13:55:05	8	have, because I already knew he was at least in
13:55:08	9	possession of one of them, so I don't know what
13:55:11	10	what the difference to me would have been if he was
13:55:12	11	in possession of one, two, three, or all four. I
13:55:17	12	don't you know.
13:55:18	13	BY MR. KEACH:
13:55:19	14	Q. Okay. Can you explain to me why it
13:55:26	15	took Chrysler's lawyers over a month to give us a
13:55:30	16	copy of your declaration?
13:55:32	17	MR. AZAR: Object to the form. Also
13:55:33	18	misstates the record.
13:55:34	19	THE WITNESS: No idea.
13:55:37	20	MR. AZAR: Egregiously.
13:55:37	21	BY MR. KEACH:
13:55:38	22	Q. Okay. And well, you were supposed
13:55:42	23	to come at one point and testify, right?

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13:55:44	1	A. Yes.
13:55:45	2	Q. Okay. And then so and you knew
13:55:49	3	that there was a later date you were going to have
13:55:50	4	to testify, correct?
13:55:51	5	A. Once once I got the email, which was
13:55:57	6	after it may have been after I did this
13:56:01	7	deposition thing originally, we were hoping
13:56:08	8	or I was hoping that it may have been cleared up by
13:56:12	9	just taking care of this.
13:56:13	10	That's kind of what I thought. Put it that
13:56:17	11	way.
13:56:18	12	Q. Is that what you were told?
13:56:19	13	A. I wasn't guaranteed that. I was told
13:56:22	14	that possibly this may be all we have to to do,
13:56:27	15	essentially.
13:56:27	16	Q. Who told you that?
13:56:28	17	A. I believe it was Mr. Azar.
13:56:30	18	$oldsymbol{Q}$. So Mr. Azar told you that if you fill
13:56:33	19	out this affidavit, that may just resolve your need
13:56:36	20	to testify, correct?
13:56:37	21	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:56:38	22	THE WITNESS: He said yes, it wasn't
13:56:42	23	guaranteed, but he said he was trying to take care

of this without me having to come and go through something such as this, I guess is the best I can remember it. I'll put it that way.

BY MR. KEACH:

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- Q. And was that -- that was in writing in the form of an email, or was that on the phone?
- A. That I don't recall. I'd have to look at the emails and see, but that may have been on the phone.

I don't remember if I talked to him or it
was emails. I may have spoken with him. I
don't --

Q. Okay. Well, let's move on to paragraph 3, and I'm going to read it into the record, because it's on two pages.

On or about February 17th, 2017, Brownie's removed and replaced the right front tire pressure monitoring system sensor in Thomas Hromowyk's late -- Thomas Hromowyk's model-year 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan vehicle. Mr. Hromowyk did not inform Brownie's of any planned or pending lawsuit relating to this component.

So let's stop and talk about that for a

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13:57:42	1	moment.
13:57:42	2	A. Okay.
13:57:42	3	Q. You didn't talk to Mr. Hromowyk about
13:57:46	4	the removal of that valve stem, correct?
13:57:49	5	A. Not personally, no.
13:57:50	6	Q. Okay. And did you try to talk to
13:57:53	7	anybody that worked at your dealership about
13:57:58	8	whether or not Mr. Hromowyk told them, "Hey, I need
13:58:00	9	this back because there's a lawsuit against
13:58:01	10	Chrysler for these defective valve stems"?
13:58:04	11	A. No, because the person who was our
13:58:07	12	manager at that time in 2017 or whatever it was you
13:58:10	13	said, he is he is no longer around, you know,
13:58:13	14	employed by us, so it was he would have been the
13:58:15	15	only one I could have asked about it, but
13:58:18	16	Q. All right. But then how can you
13:58:20	17	affirm and I'll quote Mr. Hromowyk did not
13:58:23	18	inform Brownie's of any planned or pending lawsuit
13:58:25	19	relating to this component?
13:58:27	20	A. I guess I personally cannot confirm
13:58:29	21	that.
13:58:30	22	Q. Okay.
13:58:31	23	A. But I think at the time, if somebody

MR. KEACH: Save me -- you know, you came here the last time I saw you, and you gave me your

13:59:16 23

13:58:33 had mentioned a lawsuit to my service manager, he 1 most likely would have -- that's something he 13:58:37 2 probably would have said to me, you know. 13:58:39 All right. But we've established --Q. 13:58:41 4 and if you have -- do you have the invoice from 13:58:44 5 13:58:47 6 2017 in front of you? It would be February 17th, 7 2017. 13:58:50 13:58:50 8 Α. Yes, I do. 9 All right. Does that say anything 13:58:51 0. about Mr. Hromowyk asking for his part back? 13:58:52 10 13:58:56 11 Α. No, it does not. 13:58:57 12 Q. All right. And we -- and -- but will you accept my representation that Mr. Hromowyk, in 13:58:59 13 13:59:01 14 fact, has that part? 13:59:03 15 MR. AZAR: Object to the form. Accept your 13:59:05 16 representation on what? Are you asking him to assume for the purpose of this deposition --13:59:07 17 13:59:10 18 MR. KEACH: You can to object to the form. He's fully capable of answering my question. Stop 13:59:11 19 13:59:13 20 it. 13:59:13 21 MR. AZAR: Your question doesn't make sense. 13:59:15 22

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13:59:18	1	little soapbox lecture about how you're supposed to
13:59:19	2	conduct yourself during a deposition.
13:59:20	3	MR. AZAR: Uh-huh.
13:59:21	4	MR. KEACH: Apply the same standards to
13:59:22	5	yourself.
13:59:24	6	MR. AZAR: I believe you've just asked this
13:59:25	7	witness to make an assumption on the record for
13:59:28	8	purposes of testimony. If that assumption is what
13:59:31	9	you want him to assume, I think you need to make
13:59:33	10	that clear.
13:59:34	11	MR. KEACH: You can object to the form.
13:59:34	12	He's not your he's not your client.
13:59:36	13	THE WITNESS: Being that I didn't personally
13:59:37	14	speak to Mr. Hromowyk at that time, it is true that
13:59:40	15	I can only assume that he is in possession of that
13:59:43	16	tire valve stem
13:59:44	17	BY MR. KEACH:
13:59:45	18	Q. Okay.
13:59:45	19	A from our other service manager.
13:59:47	20	Q. All right. Well, he has it, and
13:59:49	21	A. Right.
13:59:49	22	Q we've provided it to the Chrysler
13:59:52	23	Corporation, who has failed to look at it and

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13:59:54	1	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
13:59:54	2	BY MR. KEACH:
13:59:55	3	Q instead has claimed that we
13:59:56	4	destroyed evidence, which I have a feeling is going
14:00:00	5	to get a warm reception in Albany.
14:00:10	6	Okay. So so we can confirm that this
14:00:18	7	sentence about Mr. Hromowyk not informing Brownie's
14:00:21	8	of any planned or pending lawsuit relating to
14:00:24	9	his this component, you don't know that to be
14:00:26	10	true, correct?
14:00:27	11	A. Correct.
14:00:27	12	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:00:28	13	THE WITNESS: I did not speak to him myself.
14:00:28	14	BY MR. KEACH:
14:00:30	15	Q. Okay. And so you by signing this,
14:00:32	16	you were relying on the language that Mr. Azar
14:00:35	17	provided you rather than your own perception of
14:00:39	18	events; fair to say?
14:00:41	19	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:00:42	20	THE WITNESS: Yes, I was never I never
14:00:44	21	spoke to Mr. Hromowyk about any lawsuit, and if
14:00:51	22	typically, like I said, if there was somebody
14:00:54	23	brings up the word lawsuit when we're working on a

61 14:00:57 car, usually that will get around the shop, and 1 2 somebody would typically say something to me, you 14:00:59 know, the manager on duty at the time or whatever, 14:01:01 but --14:01:03 4 14:01:04 5 BY MR. KEACH: 14:01:04 6 Q. But you can't affirm that today, 7 14:01:06 correct? 14:01:08 8 That's correct. 14:01:09 9 All right. So that brings us to the Q. 14:01:10 10 next sentence: 14:01:11 11 Brownie's was not told by Mr. Hromowyk that the removed component was evidence in any planned 14:01:13 12 14:01:15 13 or pending lawsuit. 14:01:17 14 You don't know whether or not that's true 14:01:18 15 either, do you? 14:01:19 16 Α. Not personally, no. 14:01:21 17 Okay. And you don't have any Q. secondhand knowledge that that's true, true? 14:01:22 18 14:01:25 19 That's correct. A. 14:01:25 20 And same for the preceding sentence. You don't have any secondhand knowledge that that's 14:01:27 21 14:01:30 22 true either, do you? 14:01:30 23 A. That's correct.

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14:01:31	1	Q. Okay. So it says here:
14:01:34	2	Brownie's was not asked to take any special
14:01:36	3	precaution to avoid altering the component while
14:01:38	4	removing or handling it, nor was Brownie's asked to
14:01:42	5	not dispose of the component after removal.
14:01:46	6	That's not true either, is it?
14:01:48	7	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:01:55	8	THE WITNESS: Brownie's was not asked to
14:01:57	9	take any special precautions if if there
14:02:01	10	if we were asked to take special precautions, it
14:02:04	11	typically should have been noted on the on the
14:02:07	12	invoice.
14:02:07	13	And nor was Brownie's asked to dispose
14:02:07 14:02:13		And nor was Brownie's asked to dispose BY MR. KEACH:
	14	<u>-</u>
14:02:13	14 15	BY MR. KEACH: Q. I'm going to do a better job. I'm
14:02:13 14:02:14	14 15 16	BY MR. KEACH: Q. I'm going to do a better job. I'm going to do a better job of walking through this,
14:02:13 14:02:14 14:02:16	14 15 16 17	BY MR. KEACH: Q. I'm going to do a better job. I'm going to do a better job of walking through this,
14:02:13 14:02:14 14:02:16 14:02:18	14 15 16 17	BY MR. KEACH: Q. I'm going to do a better job. I'm going to do a better job of walking through this, because that's a compound that's a compound
14:02:14 14:02:14 14:02:16 14:02:18 14:02:20	14 15 16 17 18	BY MR. KEACH: Q. I'm going to do a better job. I'm going to do a better job of walking through this, because that's a compound that's a compound sentence, so we're going to break it down.
14:02:14 14:02:16 14:02:18 14:02:20 14:02:22	14 15 16 17 18 19	BY MR. KEACH: Q. I'm going to do a better job. I'm going to do a better job of walking through this, because that's a compound that's a compound sentence, so we're going to break it down. A. Okay. Q. Okay. Brownie's was not asked to take
14:02:14 14:02:16 14:02:18 14:02:20 14:02:22	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	BY MR. KEACH: Q. I'm going to do a better job. I'm going to do a better job of walking through this, because that's a compound that's a compound sentence, so we're going to break it down. A. Okay. Q. Okay. Brownie's was not asked to take

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14:02:31	1	correct?	
14:02:32	2	A. Not that I'm aware of, right.	
14:02:33	3	Q. And you don't have any secondhand	
14:02:35	4	knowledge to inform you about whether or not that's	
14:02:37	5	true, correct?	
14:02:37	6	A. That's correct.	
14:02:38	7	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.	
14:02:38	8	BY MR. KEACH:	
14:02:39	9	Q. All right. And so and then it goes	
14:02:41	10	on in the next part of the sentence:	
14:02:44	11	Nor was Brownie's asked to not dispose of	
14:02:47	12	the component after removal.	
14:02:47	13	You don't know whether that's true, do you?	
14:02:49	14	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.	
14:02:49	15	THE WITNESS: I can't I can't say for	
14:02:52	16	certain, as I didn't speak to him.	
14:02:54	17	BY MR. KEACH:	
14:02:54	18	Q. Okay. And you don't have any	
14:02:55	19	secondhand information about whether or not that's	
14:02:57	20	true either, correct?	
14:02:58	21	A. Correct.	
14:02:58	22	Q. All right. Now, if Mr. Azar had	
14:03:01	23	informed you at the time that you went to prepare	

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14:03:04	1	this affirmation that was submitted in federal
14:03:08	2	court under penalty of perjury that Mr. Hromowyk
14:03:10	3	did, in fact, have this component and invited him
14:03:13	4	and his fellow counsel to look at it, would that
14:03:16	5	have changed what you affirmed?
14:03:18	6	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:03:28	7	BY MR. KEACH:
14:03:29	8	Q. All right. Well, let me do a better
14:03:30	9	job of phrasing it.
14:03:31	10	If you were told before you filled out this
14:03:33	11	affirmation that Mr. Hromowyk, in fact, had
14:03:36	12	possession of the valve stem that was removed in
14:03:39	13	February of 2017, would you have affirmed this way
14:03:45	14	saying that Brownie's
14:03:46	15	MR. AZAR: Objection.
14:03:46	16	BY MR. KEACH:
14:03:47	17	${f Q.}$ was not asked to dispose of the
14:03:49	18	component after removal?
14:03:50	19	MR. AZAR: Object to the form. Assumes
14:03:51	20	facts not in evidence.
14:03:54	21	THE WITNESS: I I don't know if it would
14:04:02	22	have changed, because I like I said, I don't
14:04:04	23	have a record of him asking for it. I can only go

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14:04:07	1	by what's on the invoice itself.
14:04:09	2	BY MR. KEACH:
14:04:10	3	Q. Right.
14:04:10	4	A. So
14:04:10	5	Q. But obviously, we've established that
14:04:13	6	if Mr. Hromowyk asked for the had the part, then
14:04:15	7	he must have asked for it, because that's your
14:04:18	8	practice. You chuck the parts that are defective
14:04:20	9	and you replace them, correct?
14:04:21	10	A. Correct.
14:04:21	11	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:04:22	12	BY MR. KEACH:
14:04:22	13	Q. So if Mr. Hromowyk had the part, that
14:04:25	14	means he asked for it, didn't he?
14:04:25	15	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:04:25	16	THE WITNESS: If he has the exact part that
14:04:27	17	came out of his vehicle from our shop, he must have
14:04:30	18	asked for it.
14:04:30	19	BY MR. KEACH:
14:04:31	20	Q. Okay. And so that would mean that if
14:04:32	21	he has the part, that this particular part of the
14:04:36	22	sentence is not true
14:04:37	23	MR. AZAR: Object to

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14:04:38	1	BY MR. KEACH:
14:04:39	2	Q where it says Brownie's was not
14:04:40	3	asked to dispose of the component after removal.
14:04:42	4	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:04:45	5	BY MR. KEACH:
14:04:45	6	Q. And I I got to do a better job.
14:04:47	7	Brownie's was asked to not dispose let me do it
14:04:51	8	one one more time. Let's try that again.
14:04:53	9	If Mr. Hromowyk has the part in question
14:04:56	10	that was removed from his vehicle on February 17th,
14:04:59	11	2017, this part of your affidavit where you say
14:05:02	12	"nor was Brownie's asked by Mr. Hromowyk to not
14:05:06	13	dispose of the component after removal" that
14:05:09	14	would be false, wouldn't it?
14:05:10	15	MR. AZAR: Objection.
14:05:10	16	THE WITNESS: If Mr. Hromowyk is in
14:05:11	17	possession of that particular valve stem, then this
14:05:14	18	would be false, that's correct.
14:05:21	19	BY MR. KEACH:
14:05:22	20	Q. All right. So if Mr. Azar had informed
14:05:24	21	you that Mr. Hromowyk, in fact, had his valve stem
14:05:27	22	from the February 17th, 2017 service with your
14:05:32	23	company, would you have affirmed this way?

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1	MR. AZAR: Object to the form. Assumes
2	facts not evidence.
3	THE WITNESS: No, I would not, because if I
4	knew he was in possession of it, then obviously I
5	would have I would have known that he had asked
6	us for it.
7	BY MR. KEACH:
8	Q. Okay. All right. So it says:
9	The invoice for February 17, 2017, does not
10	include any request, reservation, or return of
11	components.
12	That's true, right?
13	A. Yes.
14	Q. Okay. And then the last sentence is:
15	To the best of my knowledge and information,
16	the TPMS component removed from Mr. Hromowyk's
17	vehicle in February 2017 was discarded, in
18	parentheses, into the trash, at the time the
19	vehicle was serviced, correct?
20	A. Correct.
21	Q. And if you knew at the time you filled
22	out this well, let me step back.
23	If Mr. Hromowyk has possession of this part,
	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

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14:06:27	1	that last sentence in your affidavit is also not
14:06:29	2	true, is it?
14:06:30	3	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:06:31	4	THE WITNESS: Correct.
14:06:31	5	BY MR. KEACH:
14:06:32	6	Q. It is not true.
14:06:34	7	A. It is right.
14:06:36	8	Q. Okay. And so and again, you weren't
14:06:39	9	told that before you made this particular
14:06:41	10	representation, that Mr. Hromowyk's TPMS module was
14:06:45	11	thrown in the garbage, correct?
14:06:47	12	A. If I knew Mr. Hromowyk was in
14:06:48	13	possession of his TPMS module, I I definitely
14:06:52	14	wouldn't have assumed that it was thrown into the
14:06:54	15	trash, that's correct.
14:06:56	16	Q. Okay. Just yes or no: Did your lawyer
14:07:09	17	explain to you at all, just yes or no, the import
14:07:13	18	of filling out an affidavit in federal court?
14:07:16	19	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:07:16	20	THE WITNESS: No, but you're you kind
14:07:18	21	of I think you got a little confused on that,
14:07:21	22	and I was, too.
14:07:22	23	When I received the it wasn't the

Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 69 14:07:24 affidavit that went to my lawyer. It was the 1 14:07:26 2 initial subpoena I got to come and --BY MR. KEACH: 14:07:30 3 Oh, okay. So that's different. 14:07:30 4 Q. 14:07:31 5 Yes, exactly, yes. Α. 14:07:32 6 So that was a subpoena asking you for Q. 7 documents. 14:07:34 Α. 14:07:34 8 Yes. 9 Okay. And so this latter -- this 14:07:34 Ο. affidavit that you filled out, or declaration, you 14:07:37 10 14:07:41 11 did not share that with your lawyer. No, I did not. 14:07:43 12 Α. You were not told by Mr. Azar to review 14:07:43 13 Q. 14:07:46 14 this with a lawyer, correct? 14:07:47 15 Α. No. Object to the form. 14:07:48 16 MR. AZAR: BY MR. KEACH: 14:07:48 17 You were not told by Mr. Azar that the 14:07:49 18 Q. lawyers for Mr. Hromowyk wanted to talk to you, 14:07:52 19 14:07:54 20 correct? 14:07:54 21 Α. No. 14:07:55 22 Is that correct or not correct? Q. 14:07:57 23 A. That's correct. I was -- I was kind of

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14:08:02	1	under the assumption that if I had done taken
14:08:04	2	care of that end of it, that that may clear up
14:08:07	3	everything everything of my involvement.
14:08:09	4	Q. Okay. And Mr. Azar did not tell you to
14:08:14	5	retain legal counsel to assist you with this,
14:08:17	6	correct?
14:08:17	7	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:08:17	8	THE WITNESS: Correct.
14:08:17	9	BY MR. KEACH:
14:08:18	10	Q. And he also didn't give you contact
14:08:20	11	information for myself or any of the Plaintiffs'
14:08:23	12	lawyers to talk with us before you filled this out;
14:08:26	13	fair to say?
14:08:28	14	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:08:28	15	THE WITNESS: Not that I recall.
14:08:28	16	BY MR. KEACH:
14:08:30	17	Q. I mean, when you signed let's you
14:08:32	18	and I be honest here. You signed this thing
14:08:39	19	because Mr. Azar told you that this would have
14:08:42	20	ended your involvement and you wouldn't have had to
14:08:44	21	deal with sitting across the table from somebody
14:08:46	22	like me.
14:08:47	23	MR. AZAR: Object to the form. Asked and

71 14:08:49 1 answered. 14:08:49 2 THE WITNESS: That wasn't a guarantee, but that's kind of what we were leading towards, kind 14:08:51 of what I -- I think the words were that we could 14:08:53 4 14:08:55 try and take care of this without this. 5 14:08:59 6 BY MR. KEACH: 7 Okay. And you don't -- do you have any 14:08:59 14:09:06 8 knowledge of when you provided this affidavit compared to when the discovery cutoff was in 9 14:09:08 Mr. Hromowyk's civil -- in Mr. Hromowyk's civil 14:09:12 10 14:09:15 11 suit? 14:09:16 12 Α. No. Do you know when you filled out this 14:09:16 13 14:09:18 14 affidavit compared to when the Plaintiffs' counsel 14:09:20 15 had planned to come here to Buffalo to take your 14:09:22 16 testimony? 14:09:23 17 Say that again? Were -- did you -- do you know -- let Q. 14:09:25 18 14:09:29 19 me step back. 14:09:30 20 Were you aware that at some point after you signed this declaration, that the Plaintiffs' 14:09:33 21

signed this declaration, that the Plaintiffs' counsel was planning to come to Buffalo to take your testimony?

14:09:35 22

14:09:38 23

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14:09:38	1	A. No.
14:09:39	2	Q. Were you told that beforehand? Were
14:09:41	3	you told before you signed this, "Hey, you know, we
14:09:43	4	got a you know, your deposition's going to be
14:09:45	5	scheduled next week, but, hey" were you told
14:09:53	6	that?
14:09:53	7	A. No.
14:09:54	8	Q. Okay. Okay. So let's move on to
14:09:56	9	paragraph 4 of Exhibit RR, and I'll start reading
14:09:59	10	that into the record:
14:10:02	11	On or about May 24th, 2018, Brownie's
14:10:05	12	removed and replaced the left rear TPMS sensor in
14:10:08	13	Mr. Hromowyk Dodge Caravan vehicle.
14:10:10	14	And let me step back. I'm going to go back
14:10:12	15	to paragraph 3 and the repair from February 17,
14:10:14	16	2007 2017. Let's start over.
14:10:38	17	Do you know what was wrong with
14:10:39	18	Mr. Hromowyk's TPMS valve stem on February 17th,
14:10:44	19	2017, when when it was repaired at Brownie's?
14:10:47	20	A. No, I do not.
14:10:48	21	Q. All right. So let's move on to
14:10:50	22	paragraph 4, which you have on your screen there in
14:10:53	23	front of you, okay?

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14:10:54	1	The first sentence: On or about May 24th,
14:10:57	2	2018, Brownie's removed and replaced the left rear
14:11:01	3	TPMS sensor in Mr. Hromowyk's Dodge Caravan
14:11:03	4	vehicle.
14:11:03	5	That's true, correct?
14:11:04	6	A. Yes.
14:11:05	7	Q. All right. We're going to get to that
14:11:07	8	in a minute, but you've got that receipt there in
14:11:09	9	front of you as well, correct?
14:11:10	10	A. This is the 17th, right?
14:11:12	11	Q. Yes.
14:11:13	12	A. Yes.
14:11:14	13	Q. Well, no, no, May 24th, 2018. It would
14:11:16	14	be a different different receipt.
14:11:20	15	A. Yes, I have it.
14:11:20	16	Q. Okay. And so that's true, right? You
14:11:25	17	guys replaced this TPMS module at that time.
14:11:28	18	A. That's correct.
14:11:29	19	Q. All right. So the next sentence:
14:11:31	20	Mr. Hromowyk did not inform Brownie's of any
14:11:33	21	planned or pending lawsuit related to this
14:11:35	22	component.
14:11:36	23	You can't tell me whether or not that's

Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 74 14:11:38 true, correct? 1 I cannot personally tell you whether or 14:11:39 not that's true, that's correct. 14:11:41 3 Okay. And you don't have any 14:11:42 4 Q. 14:11:43 secondhand knowledge to demonstrate whether or not 5 14:11:49 6 that's correct. Object to the form. 14:11:49 MR. AZAR: THE WITNESS: That's correct. 14:11:50 8 BY MR. KEACH: 14:11:51 All right. Moving forward to the -- to 14:11:51 10 Q. 14:11:54 11 the next sentence: Brownie's was not told by Mr. Hromowyk that 14:11:55 12 the removed component was evidence in any planned 14:11:57 13 14:12:00 14 or pending lawsuit. 14:12:01 15 You don't know whether or not that's true, 14:12:03 16 do you? 14:12:03 17 MR. AZAR: Object to the form. 14:12:04 18 THE WITNESS: I do not. BY MR. KEACH: 14:12:04 19 14:12:05 20 Okay. And you don't have any Q. secondhand information about whether or not the 14:12:07 21

people that worked for you were told that, correct?

MR. AZAR: Object to the form.

14:12:09 22

14:12:11 23

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		,
14:12:12	1	THE WITNESS: That's correct.
14:12:12	2	BY MR. KEACH:
14:12:13	3	Q. All right. Brownie's was not asked to
14:12:16	4	take any special precautions to avoid altering the
14:12:18	5	component while removing or handling it.
14:12:21	6	That's the first part of the next sentence.
14:12:24	7	You don't know whether or not that's true, correct?
14:12:27	8	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:12:27	9	THE WITNESS: I do not personally know that.
14:12:29	10	BY MR. KEACH:
14:12:29	11	Q. Okay. And you don't have any
14:12:31	12	secondhand knowledge about whether or not that's
14:12:33	13	correct.
14:12:33	14	A. No, I can only go by what's on the
14:12:35	15	invoices.
14:12:36	16	Q. Okay. And there's nothing reflected on
14:12:38	17	the invoice that the customer gets the part back.
14:12:40	18	A. Correct.
14:12:41	19	Q. Okay. So let's move forward to the
14:12:43	20	next part of the sentence:
14:12:44	21	Nor was Brownie's asked to not dispose of
14:12:46	22	the component after removal.
14:12:47	23	You don't know whether or not that's true

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14:12:49	1	either, correct?	
14:12:49	2	A. Correct.	
14:12:50	3	Q. All right. And I'm representing to	
14:12:54	4	you, as I've represented to counsel for FCA US,	
14:12:58	5	that the Plaintiffs' counsel is in possession of	
14:13:00	6	this second valve stem that was removed from	
14:13:02	7	Mr. Hromowyk's vehicle, and we brought it to	
14:13:05	8	Mr. Azar and his colleagues' attention well before	<u> </u>
14:13:08	9	you filled out this affidavit.	
14:13:09	10	So given that Mr. Hromowyk has his valve	
14:13:15	11	stem, this latter part of the sentence and I'll	L
14:13:20	12	call it out for you that is not true.	
14:13:24	13	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.	
14:13:24	14	BY MR. KEACH:	
14:13:25	15	Q. Is it?	
14:13:26	16	A . If Mr. Hromowyk is in possession of th	n e
14:13:28	17	exact same tire pressure monitor that came off his	3
14:13:33	18	vehicle, then this is not true.	
14:13:35	19	Q. And relative to this paragraph,	
14:13:38	20	Mr. Azar did not bother to tell you that	
14:13:41	21	Mr. Hromowyk had his valve stem and offered it to	
14:13:44	22	him and his co-counsel to inspect it at their	
14:13:48	23	leisure, did he?	

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14:13:49	1	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:13:49	2	THE WITNESS: $N \circ$.
14:13:50	3	BY MR. KEACH:
14:13:57	4	Q. And you don't know as you sit here
14:13:58	5	today whether or not FCA US's counsel has ever
14:14:02	6	taken the Plaintiffs' counsel up on inspecting the
14:14:05	7	valve stem, do you?
14:14:06	8	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:14:06	9	THE WITNESS: No, I don't.
14:14:08	10	MR. AZAR: Counsel, could we be a little
14:14:10	11	more respectful of this witness's time?
14:14:12	12	MR. KEACH: You can object to the form and
14:14:14	13	save your commentary for someone who cares, okay?
14:14:18	14	I think you're going to read you're going to
14:14:20	15	have plenty of fill of getting my commentary when
14:14:24	16	you get my response to your motion, so why don't we
14:14:27	17	just save the soapbox lecture for that time, okay,
14:14:31	18	Tom?
14:14:32	19	MR. AZAR: Please proceed.
14:14:33	20	MR. KEACH: I mean, you know, I'm so
14:14:34	21	impressed by you. I'm going to ask that you
14:14:42	22	refrain from any further soapbox comments today.
14:14:47	23	It's objection to form. I don't care about your

78 14:14:48 1 opinion. Save it. It's objection to form. 14:14:51 2 BY MR. KEACH: Moving forward to the next sentence: 14:14:52 3 The invoice for the May 24th, 2018 service 14:14:56 4 14:15:01 does not include any request for preservation or 5 14:15:04 6 return of components. 14:15:05 We can agree that that is true, correct? 14:15:07 8 Α. Correct. All right. And then moving on to the 9 14:15:07 next sentence: 14:15:09 10 14:15:10 11 To the best of my knowledge and information, the TPMS component removed from Mr. Hromowyk's 14:15:12 12 vehicle in May 2018 was discarded, in parentheses, 14:15:14 13 14:15:19 14 into the trash, at the time that the vehicle was 14:15:22 15 serviced. 14:15:23 16 We can agree that if Mr. Hromowyk has the actual part that was removed from his vehicle on 14:15:26 17 May 24th, 2018, that this last sentence is false. 14:15:28 18 14:15:32 19 If Mr. Hromowyk is in possession of Α. that exact part, then this last sentence is false, 14:15:34 20 14:15:37 21 correct. All right. And again, before you --14:15:37 22 Q. 14:15:39 23 before you affirmed to this last sentence, Mr. Azar

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14:15:42	1	did not inform you of the fact that Mr. Hromowyk
14:15:45	2	has that part and that it was offered to him to be
14:15:47	3	inspected; fair to say?
14:15:49	4	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:15:49	5	THE WITNESS: Yes.
14:15:50	6	BY MR. KEACH:
14:15:50	7	Q. Okay. Let's move on to paragraph 5:
14:15:55	8	On or about April 11th, 2019, Brownie's
14:15:59	9	removed and replaced the right rear TPMS sensor in
14:16:03	10	Mr. Hromowyk's Dodge Caravan vehicle.
14:16:05	11	That's correct, isn't it?
14:16:06	12	A. That's correct.
14:16:07	13	Q. And that's the that's the invoice
14:16:08	14	and I'll just put it up on the screen for you
14:16:11	15	briefly.
14:16:11	16	That's the invoice that we looked at as
14:16:13	17	Exhibit QQ.
14:16:14	18	A. Yes.
14:16:15	19	Q. Okay. So the next sentence reads:
14:16:20	20	Mr. Hromowyk did not inform Brownie's of any
14:16:23	21	planned or pending lawsuit relating to this
14:16:25	22	component.
14:16:26	23	Correct?

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14:16:27	1	A. Correct.
14:16:28	2	Q. And I got to blow that up for you. You
14:16:30	3	have my apologies.
14:16:31	4	That's a little better, isn't it?
14:16:31	5	A. I didn't bring my reading glasses.
14:16:34	6	Q. So you don't know whether or not that's
14:16:38	7	true, correct?
14:16:39	8	A. I don't personally know whether or not
14:16:41	9	that's true. All I know is he at that point he
14:16:43	10	requested us to save the old part.
14:16:45	11	Q. Okay. And you don't have any
14:16:47	12	secondhand knowledge to say whether what what
14:16:49	13	reason Mr. Hromowyk gave to your service desk about
14:16:51	14	"Hey, here's why I need the part," correct?
14:16:54	15	A. No, I do not.
14:16:54	16	Q. All right. All right. So the next
14:16:58	17	sentence reads:
14:17:00	18	Brownie's was not told by Mr. Hromowyk that
14:17:02	19	the removed component was evidence in any planned
14:17:04	20	or pending lawsuit.
14:17:06	21	You don't know that to be true, do you?
14:17:08	22	A. Not personally.
14:17:09	23	Q. You don't have any secondhand

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14:17:11	1	information to reflect that it's true, do you?
14:17:14	2	A. No.
14:17:14	3	Q. Next sentence: As reflected in the
14:17:16	4	invoice, Mr. Hromowyk requested that Brownie's save
14:17:19	5	and return the TPMS sensor.
14:17:21	6	Correct?
14:17:22	7	A. Yes.
14:17:22	8	Q. And that is true. That that fact is
14:17:26	9	true, isn't it?
14:17:28	10	A. Would you say it one more time?
14:17:30	11	Q. That Mr. Hromowyk asked you to save the
14:17:32	12	TPMS module. When I say you, I mean
14:17:33	13	A. That I know to be true just because
14:17:35	14	it's in writing in front of me on the invoice, as
14:17:38	15	it's supposed to be.
14:17:39	16	Q. All right. Brownie's was not asked to
14:17:41	17	take any special precaution to avoid altering the
14:17:44	18	component while removing or handling it.
14:17:46	19	You don't know whether that's true or not,
14:17:49	20	do you?
14:17:49	21	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:17:50	22	THE WITNESS: Not personally.
14:17:51	23	BY MR. KEACH:

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14:17:53	1	Q. Do you have any secondhand knowledge to
14:17:55	2	reflect whether or not that's true?
14:17:56	3	MR. AZAR: Object to form.
14:17:57	4	THE WITNESS: No.
14:17:57	5	BY MR. KEACH:
14:17:58	6	$oldsymbol{Q}$. All right. And are you going to do
14:17:59	7	anything different let's assume I come into your
14:18:02	8	shop, all right, and, you know, I've got a I've
14:18:05	9	got a part that has to be removed.
14:18:07	10	Are you going to do if I say, "Hey, you
14:18:10	11	know, you got to take special precaution to avoid
14:18:13	12	altering this component when you're trying to
14:18:15	13	remove it," are you going to do anything different?
14:18:15	14	A. No.
14:18:17	15	Q. Okay. You're going to do the same
14:18:19	16	thing to get that component out of there that you
14:18:21	17	would whether I wanted it preserved or not; fair to
14:18:23	18	say?
14:18:25	19	A. Yes.
14:18:25	20	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:18:26	21	BY MR. KEACH:
14:18:26	22	Q. Okay. So because, you know, your
14:18:30	23	job is to fix the car, correct?

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14:18:32	1	A. Yes.	
14:18:33	2	$oldsymbol{Q}$. All right. And do you know why	
14:18:36	3	Mr. Hromowyk needed this particular valve stem	
14:18:38	4	removed, the valve stem that was taken out earlier	
14:18:40	5	this year?	
14:18:42	6	Let me step back to make sure that's	
14:18:43	7	correct. Yes, earlier this year.	
14:18:48	8	Do you know what was wrong with it?	
14:18:50	9	A. Not personally. I can only assume it	
14:18:52	10	was leaking or deteriorated, but I	
14:18:54	11	Q. But you don't know for sure.	
14:18:55	12	A. I can't say for certain.	
14:18:56	13	$oldsymbol{Q}$. All right. And you didn't talk to	
14:18:57	14	anybody that worked for you to figure out what was	
14:19:03	15	wrong with it either, right?	
14:19:04	16	A. No. My guys can't remember what	
14:19:10	17	happened yesterday, let alone April.	
14:19:12	18	Q. Okay. Me neither.	
14:19:15	19	So and the same holds true for the valve	
14:19:19	20	stem that was removed on May 24th, 2018. You don'	t
14:19:22	21	know why that was what was wrong with that,	
14:19:23	22	correct?	
14:19:24	23	A. No, I do not.	

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14:19:24	1	Q. But but you would assume that it was
14:19:27	2	corroded.
14:19:28	3	A. Yes.
14:19:29	4	Q. Okay. So getting back to this special
14:19:34	5	precaution business, if I walk in to you and say,
14:19:37	6	"Hey, I want my lift kit removed, but I want you to
14:19:40	7	take special precaution to avoid altering the
14:19:43	8	component while removing or handling it because I'm
14:19:46	9	going to put in a new lift kit," you're not going
14:19:49	10	to do anything different. You're going to get that
14:19:51	11	lift kit out of there and put in a new lift kit;
14:19:53	12	fair to say?
14:19:53	13	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:19:53	14	THE WITNESS: Yes.
14:19:53	15	BY MR. KEACH:
14:19:55	16	Q. All right. So this is really a a
14:19:57	17	distinction without a difference, isn't it, this
14:19:59	18	this what Mr. Azar asked you to affirm in this
14:20:04	19	federal civil suit?
14:20:06	20	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:20:07	21	THE WITNESS: Put that in different terms
14:20:08	22	for me.
14:20:08	23	BY MR. KEACH:

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14:20:09	1	Q. Sure. I mean, this this it
14:20:11	2	didn't matter it didn't matter whether Tom
14:20:14	3	Hromowyk came in and said, "Treat this component
14:20:16	4	like it's the holy grail when removing it from the
14:20:21	5	car." You guys are going to treat that component
14:20:23	6	the same way.
14:20:24	7	A. Yes.
14:20:24	8	Q. Okay. All right. And finally, the
14:20:28	9	last sentence is last sentence is:
14:20:31	10	To the best of my knowledge and information,
14:20:32	11	the TPMS component removed from Mr. Hromowyk's
14:20:34	12	vehicle in April 2018 was returned to Mr. Hromowyk
14:20:38	13	upon completion of the service.
14:20:39	14	That's accurate as well, correct?
14:20:41	15	A. Yes.
14:20:42	16	Q. All right. But again, when you filled
14:20:43	17	this out, you weren't told that Mr. Hromowyk, in
14:20:47	18	fact, had the part, were you?
14:20:49	19	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:20:50	20	THE WITNESS: No, obviously if I if I
14:20:52	21	knew he was in possession of them, I would have
14:20:54	22	known we didn't throw them in the garbage.
14:20:54	23	BY MR. KEACH:

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14:20:57	1	Q. Okay. We've been at this for over an
14:21:02	2	hour. It's my practice when I'm deposing people to
14:21:05	3	give them a break about every hour just to get away
14:21:09	4	from me and relax a little bit.
14:21:11	5	A. Fine. I don't really need it.
14:21:13	6	$oldsymbol{Q}.$ I need to use the bathroom just
14:21:15	7	briefly, so we're going to take a break just for
14:21:17	8	five minutes. I ask for you to confirm I'm not
14:21:20	9	going to talk to you. I ask you confirm you'll not
14:21:23	10	talk to Mr. Azar either, okay?
14:21:24	11	MR. AZAR: I don't believe there's any I
14:21:25	12	mean, certainly I don't have any privilege with
14:21:26	13	this witness, but I don't think you can tell the
14:21:28	14	witness not to talk to me.
14:21:29	15	But why don't we go off the record.
14:21:33	16	MR. KEACH: Well, okay. Fine. If you want
14:21:41	17	talk to Mr. Azar during the break, I'm just going
14:21:46	18	to ask that you polish up your memory, because I'm
14:21:48	19	going to ask you everything that you talked about
14:21:50	20	with Mr. Azar, okay?
14:21:53	21	So in that regard, we'll take a break.
14:21:55	22	(A recess was then taken.)
14:30:21	23	BY MR. KEACH:

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14:30:24	1	Q. Okay. I'm going to move on to another
14:30:29	2	document that I have and I want you to take a look
14:30:31	3	at. Give me just a moment.
14:31:20	4	All right. I'm going to show you what we
14:31:22	5	marked as Exhibit SS.
14:31:22	6	The following was marked for Identification:
	7	HROMOWYK EXH. SS invoice number 50508 dated
	8	02/12/2013
14:31:40	9	BY MR. KEACH:
14:31:41	10	Q. So this is an invoice for the repair of
14:31:44	11	the tire, okay, at your shop, correct?
14:31:46	12	A. The one in front of me?
14:31:48	13	Q. Yes.
14:31:49	14	A. That is an invoice for new tires dated
14:31:52	15	back in 2013.
14:31:53	16	Q. Okay. And it talks here, okay, about
14:31:58	17	New York State inspection, and it says New York
14:32:03	18	State safety and emissions inspection, tire price
14:32:05	19	includes mounting, balance, new valve stem, and
14:32:10	20	disposal of old tire and free flat repairs,
14:32:13	21	correct?
14:32:13	22	A. Yes.
14:32:13	23	Q. All right. Now, if someone has a TPMS

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14:32:17	1	module in their vehicle which has the valve stem,
14:32:21	2	is that TPMS module going to be put back into the
14:32:24	3	vehicle?
14:32:25	4	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:32:26	5	BY MR. KEACH:
14:32:26	6	Q. Do you understand what I mean?
14:32:28	7	A. There is there would be no call to
14:32:30	8	remove a TPMS module just to replace a tire.
14:32:34	9	Q. That's what I'm trying to figure out.
14:32:36	10	A. Yes.
14:32:37	11	Q. It says here new valve stem. My
14:32:39	12	understanding is that TPMS modules all have their
14:32:41	13	own valve stems. Am I right about that?
14:32:43	14	A. Yes.
14:32:44	15	Q. All right. There's like there's the
14:32:45	16	module, then there's the valve stem and the cap,
14:32:48	17	and it's all one thing.
14:32:50	18	So you can't just replace the valve stem.
14:32:53	19	You have to replace the entire module
14:32:55	20	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:32:56	21	BY MR. KEACH:
14:32:57	22	Q correct?
14:32:57	23	A. There are a few nowadays where you can

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14:33:00 just replace the valve stem. This is referring to 1 2 old-school valve stems before they had the TPMS 14:33:04 modules, is what they -- what that is, the valve 14:33:07 3 14:33:10 stem. 4 14:33:10 5 Q. So that's what -- that's the valve. 14:33:11 6

A. Yes, that's -- if your car doesn't have one, there's, you know, a \$1 rubber valve stem or an \$80 tire pressure valve stem.

These are the rubber, non-TPMS-equipped vehicle style.

Q. All right. So it's been suggested in this case that this invoice shows that you, in fact, replaced the valve stems on Mr. Hromowyk's vehicle when you, you know, replaced these tires.

Is that accurate?

MR. AZAR: Object to the form.

THE WITNESS: Right. This -- this was something that when -- when we sell tires on a car, it -- it -- it automatically goes on the invoice, and this was prior to a lot of the problems with the tire pressure monitoring systems.

We've actually changed that at this point so it's worded differently. Doesn't quite say that

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90 14:34:01 anymore, but what that does refer to is a car with 1 14:34:04 2 a regular rubber \$1 valve stem. BY MR. KEACH: 14:34:09 3 All right. If you -- if Mr. Hromowyk's 14:34:10 4 Q. 14:34:12 5 TPMS valves -- his TPMS modules were replaced when 14:34:13 6 you did this tire repair on his car in February 14:34:17 2013, that would have been reflected in this invoice, correct? 14:34:19 8 Α. Correct. 14:34:19 And TPMS modules, from what I 14:34:21 10 Q. 14:34:23 11 understand -- they cost money, don't they? 14:34:25 12 Α. Sure. If you've got to replace a TPMS module, 14:34:25 13 Q. 14:34:28 14 you have to go to NAPA and buy the parts --14:34:30 15 Α. Yes. 14:34:31 16 0. -- correct? And then you -- and then you install the TPMS module, correct? 14:34:35 17 14:34:37 18 Α. Yes. 14:34:38 19 And you charge the customer for the Q. part and the labor. 14:34:40 20 14:34:41 21 Α. Yes. 14:34:41 22 All right. So when you go to NAPA to Q. 14:34:43 23 buy the TPMS module, how much is that out of your

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monitoring system modules in Mr. Hromowyk's car were not -- were not disposed of at that time, correct? MR. AZAR: Object to the form. THE WITNESS: Were not replaced at that time?

14:35:24 20 BY MR. KEACH:

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- Q. Yes, excuse me, were not replaced at that time.
 - A. That's correct.

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14:35:28	1	$oldsymbol{Q}.$ All right. The existing TPMS modules
14:35:30	2	were taken and were reinserted into the new tires.
14:35:32	3	A. They wouldn't have been removed. The
14:35:35	4	TPMS module mounts not to the tire. It mounts to
14:35:38	5	the wheel itself.
14:35:39	6	So when you change a tire, you don't
14:35:42	7	actually have to remove the TPMS from the wheel.
14:35:46	8	You don't you don't have to touch it. You just
14:35:49	9	leave it alone type of deal.
14:35:51	10	Q. All right.
14:35:52	11	A. It's not something you have to remove
14:35:54	12	to replace the tire.
14:35:55	13	Q. All right. I appreciate you clarifying
14:35:57	14	that for me. You're right. I'm old-school. The
14:35:59	15	tires with the little little rubber valves, you
14:35:59	16	just pop them off.
14:35:59	17	A. Correct.
14:36:01	18	Q. The it's fair to say by reviewing
14:36:05	19	this invoice that the TPMS modules in
14:36:09	20	Mr. Hromowyk's car remained intact after these four
14:36:13	21	tires were replaced, correct?
14:36:15	22	MR. AZAR: Object to the form.
14:36:15	23	THE WITNESS: Yes.

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14:36:17	1	BY MR. KEACH:
14:36:28	2	Q. Okay. I'm going to have you take a
14:37:17	3	look just briefly at Exhibit TT.
14:37:17	4	The following was marked for Identification:
	5	HROMOWYK EXH. TT invoice number 59308 dated
	6	08/04/2015
14:37:21	7	BY MR. KEACH:
14:37:21	8	Q. And would you, before we start you
14:37:23	9	know, I want to be able to get through this fairly
14:37:26	10	quickly, because this is somewhat tedious. I mean,
14:37:28	11	I need to protect the record, but I don't want to
14:37:31	12	engage in tedium.
14:37:32	13	Can I just see the documents you have in
14:37:33	14	front of you so I can take a look at them?
14:37:36	15	A. Sure. You don't want these, right?
14:37:39	16	Just these.
14:37:40	17	Q. No. What do you have there?
14:37:41	18	A. This was just the subpoena to appear
14:37:43	19	and the whatever that might have been.
14:37:46	20	Q. Oh, that was the subpoena for you to
14:37:48	21	show up, too.
14:37:49	22	A. Right, yes, okay.
14:37:51	23	Q. Okay. All right. I'm just going to

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14:38:15	1	put up what we've marked as Exhibit well, let me
14:38:18	2	step back.
14:38:19	3	Have you reviewed anything else to prepare
14:38:21	4	for your testimony today besides the two subpoenas
14:38:23	5	and these receipts that you've provided me?
14:38:25	6	A. No.
14:38:26	7	Q. All right. I've got five receipts here
14:38:28	8	that you've presented that have to do with the
14:38:31	9	either have to do with TPMS modules or repairing
14:38:34	10	tires on Mr. Hromowyk's car.
14:38:35	11	Well, I think they're all involving the
14:38:37	12	TPMS.
14:38:37	13	A. I brought all the ones regarding the
14:38:40	14	TPMS.
14:38:40	15	Q. Okay. All right. I'm just going to
14:39:09	16	ask you, because I'm kind of confused here.
14:39:12	17	You've got we've got an invoice from
14:39:15	18	8/4/15 and I'll pass these over to you, and
14:39:17	19	we'll mark them in due course.
14:39:17	20	A. Sure, yes.
14:39:20	21	Q. Got an invoice from 8/4/15, 2/20
14:39:27	22	2/17/2017, $5/24/2018$, and then another one for work
14:39:34	23	completed on 4/11/2019.
	ı	

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 95
14:39:37	1	All of these relate to, it appears,
14:39:39	2	replacing TPMS modules on Mr. Hromowyk's car. Am I
14:39:46	3	right about that?
14:39:47	4	A. One of them is just a repair kit, I
14:39:49	5	believe is what they call if you look in the
14:39:52	6	description, is there one of them that's just a
14:39:54	7	Q. One of them's different than the
14:39:55	8	others.
14:39:55	9	MR. KEACH: And, Tom, I don't mean to
14:39:57	10	exclude you from this. I'll pass these over to
14:39:59	11	you.
14:40:00	12	MR. AZAR: I've seen them.
14:40:00	13	BY MR. KEACH:
14:40:01	14	$oldsymbol{Q}_{oldsymbol{\cdot}}$ Okay. The one at the top is different
14:40:02	15	than the other three.
14:40:04	16	A. No, the one at the top is only
14:40:08	17	different because
14:40:09	18	Q. The one at the bottom.
14:40:12	19	A. Oh, no.
14:40:13	20	Q. The one you don't have in your hand.
14:40:15	21	That one.
14:40:15	22	A. Yes, the only difference in this one
14:40:22	23	is my guess is they got the sometimes we get

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 96
14:40:26	1	the sensors from whoever has them. We're not
14:40:33	2	primarily just a NAPA repair shop. We use other
14:40:36	3	parts stores, so but what is this, 5/24/18?
14:40:41	4	The difference on that one is just we
14:40:43	5	included the labor and the installation of the part
14:40:45	6	rather than charge him the separate 18.95. That's
14:40:49	7	what that looks like to me.
14:40:51	8	Q. All right. I'm at a loss.
14:40:52	9	Do those four receipts all reflect
14:40:54	10	replacement of TPMS modules, or is one different?
14:40:59	11	A. One, two, three those all reflect
14:41:02	12	replacement of a TPMS module.
14:41:04	13	Q. Okay. And what is the date of the
14:41:09	14	first repair of the TPMS module?
14:41:12	15	A. The first one was looks to be
14:41:21	16	8/4/2015.
14:41:22	17	Q. All right. So that's what we have in
14:41:24	18	front of us as Exhibit TT, is the invoice from
14:41:29	19	8/4/2015; is that correct?
14:41:36	20	A. Yes, sorry.
14:41:38	21	Q. Okay. All right. We're going to keep
14:41:43	22	walking through these.
14:41:44	23	Now, I have another a work completed

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 97
14:41:48	1	7/27/2015. Can you tell me what is reflected on
14:41:54	2	this particular invoice?
14:41:56	3	A. It looks like at that point he
14:42:01	4	purchased two tires, had an oil change, and that
14:42:07	5	what's called a tire pressure monitoring service
14:42:11	6	pack is a is basically just the new cap and the
14:42:15	7	new valve, you know, on the valve stem.
14:42:17	8	So that's why that's \$5.36, so
14:42:23	9	Q. Okay. And then it's reflected what,
14:42:25	10	roughly a week later you replaced the TPMS module?
14:42:29	11	That would be the invoice from 8/4/2015?
14:42:32	12	A . 8/4
14:42:40	13	Q. It's on your screen.
14:42:41	14	A. My screen went blank again.
14:42:43	15	Q. Oh, your screen went blank again. My
14:42:46	16	apologies. I thought it was on your screen.
14:42:49	17	There you go. It's back on your screen,
14:42:51	18	sir.
14:42:51	19	A. Yes, 8/4/2015.
14:42:53	20	Q. All right. So do you know why
14:42:54	21	Mr. Hromowyk had to bring his car back a week later
14:42:57	22	to replace the TPMS module?
14:42:59	23	A. Not personally. My assumption is going

98 1 14:43:01 to be that it was -- it was probably leaking. 14:43:03 2 That's based on your training and 0. experience. You think more likely than not, that's 14:43:05 3 what happened. 14:43:08 4 14:43:09 5 Α. Yes. 14:43:09 6 So you replaced the tires; you put the Q. 14:43:12 new cap on. 14:43:13 Α. New valve and new cap, right. 14:43:17 Q. All right. And then even after 9 replacing that, it continued to leak. 14:43:18 10 14:43:20 11 Α. That would be my best guess on that, 14:43:22 12 yes. 14:43:22 13 All right. Can you -- what do you mean Q. 14:43:24 14 by a valve? I don't understand that. Just explain 14:43:28 15 that to someone who, you know, doesn't have much 14:43:32 16 mechanical aptitude. 14:43:34 17 Okay. The -- the way a tire pressure monitor goes through a rim, you know, it's an 14:43:38 18 aluminum stud with a rubber O-ring on the stud 14:43:42 19 where it presses up against the wheel. 14:43:46 20 The stud travels through the wheel. There's 14:43:48 21 another rubber O-ring on top which is actually like 14:43:51 22 14:43:54 23 the seal to hold the tires in, and then there's a

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 99
14:43:56	1	nut that tightens it all together.
14:43:58	2	So that and then the valve it's like
14:44:02	3	when you put air in a tire, that little nipple you
14:44:06	4	push in the middle
14:44:07	5	Q. That's the valve.
14:44:08	6	A that's the valve.
14:44:09	7	Q. Got you.
14:44:09	8	A. So usually when you buy that service
14:44:11	9	kit, it comes with a new cap, it comes with a new
14:44:13	10	little valve, and then it usually comes with a
14:44:16	11	new the screw that holds it all together or
14:44:18	12	whatever. So that's what those are.
14:44:20	13	Q. Okay. In an effort to speed this up to
14:46:12	14	get my colleague back to St. Louis, can you give me
14:46:14	15	all those invoices? Because we're just going to
14:46:16	16	copy them all and mark them right now instead of me
14:46:19	17	trying to do it with the electronics.
14:46:29	18	(A recess was then taken.)
14:46:29	19	The following was marked for Identification:
	20	HROMOWYK EXH. UU five invoices
14:50:23	21	BY MR. KEACH:
14:50:37	22	Q. Okay. Now, I'm just going to just walk
14:50:40	23	through this quickly, okay?

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100 14:50:42 1 These are all the receipts that you gave to 2 Mr. Azar when he sent you the subpoena asking for 14:50:44 documentation, correct? 14:50:46 3 Α. Correct. 14:50:47 4 14:50:48 5 All right. And these reflect the times Q. 14:50:50 6 that you replaced Mr. Hromowyk's -- or had some involvement with Mr. Hromowyk's TPMS module --14:50:55 14:50:57 8 Α. Yes. 9 -- fair to say? All right. 14:50:58 So you replaced all four of Mr. Hromowyk's 14:50:59 10 14:51:05 11 TPMS modules, correct? 14:51:06 12 Α. Yes. 14:51:07 13 All right. It looks like you printed Q. 14:51:09 14 these things up today. Is that accurate? 14:51:11 15 Α. What's that? It looks like you printed these things 14:51:12 16 0. 14:51:13 17 up today. That's correct. 14:51:13 18 Α. 14:51:14 19 All right. So how did you that? Would Q. you search for Tom Hromowyk on your system? 14:51:17 20 Yes, the way our computer system's 14:51:19 21 Α. built, I can -- you know, his name's obviously in 14:51:21 22

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there as a customer, and I can look at any history

14:51:23 23

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
14:51:26	1	from any customer.
14:51:28	2	Q. Okay. And so you picked out these
14:51:30	3	documents and brought them with you today.
14:51:32	4	A. Yes.
14:51:32	5	Q. All right. And so I'm just going to go
14:51:34	6	through the the timeline.
14:51:38	7	We have Mr. Hromowyk coming in for a
14:51:43	8	repair for some or new tires on July 27th,
14:51:48	9	2015, correct?
14:51:52	10	A. That's correct.
14:51:52	11	Q. And then he had he replaced his TPMS
14:51:56	12	module roughly a week later on August 4th, 2015,
14:52:00	13	and that was the first TPMS module that you
14:52:03	14	replaced for Mr. Hromowyk, correct?
14:52:10	15	A. What date did you say?
14:52:11	16	Q. August 4th, 2015.
14:52:15	17	A. Oh, there we go. Yes, that is correct.
14:52:17	18	Q. Okay. And you have no personal
14:52:21	19	knowledge about the about the condition of
14:52:24	20	Mr. Hromowyk's TPMS module when it was removed on
14:52:27	21	that date, correct?
14:52:28	22	A. That's correct.
14:52:29	23	Q. All right. And do you know is

			Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
14:52:31	1	Howard Guthi	rie still employed by your company?
14:52:34	2	Α.	No, he is not.
14:52:35	3	Q.	All right. And was he he goes by
14:52:37	4	the name How	vie, I believe; is that accurate?
14:52:41	5	Α.	No, Howard. Howard.
14:52:43	6	Q.	He goes by Howard?
14:52:45	7	Α.	Lot of people call him How, but Howie's
14:52:48	8	not one of t	them names that yes.
14:52:49	9	Q.	Okay, How. That's what I'm thinking
14:52:52	10	of. Okay.	
14:52:52	11	Α.	Yes.
14:52:53	12	Q.	So where does how work now?
14:52:55	13	Α.	Fox Tire.
14:52:56	14	Q.	And do you know without giving me an
14:53:00	15	address, do	you know where Mr. Guthrie lives?
14:53:03	16	Α.	Cheektowaga. That's all I know.
14:53:05	17	Q.	Okay. Beautiful city of Cheektowaga.
14:53:08	18	Α.	Cheektavegas.
14:53:10	19	Q.	Okay. Do you when's the last time
14:53:14	20	you spoke to	Mr. Guthrie?
14:53:17	21	A.	Two weeks ago, probably.
14:53:18	22	Q.	And to talk about what?
14:53:20	23	A.	I saw him we we both myself

Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 103 14:53:24 and his son, we both drive a race car at local 1 2 short tracks on Fridays, so he's there with his son 14:53:29 all the time, so yes. 14:53:33 3 Q. Did you talk about this lawsuit with 14:53:34 4 14:53:35 5 him? 14:53:36 6 Α. No. 14:53:36 Q. You were talking about short track 14:53:38 8 racing. 9 Α. Yes. 14:53:39 MR. KEACH: Just off the record for a 14:53:42 10 14:53:43 11 second. 14:53:47 12 (A recess was then taken.) BY MR. KEACH: 14:54:05 13 14:54:06 14 Q. Okay. So did you ever talk to Howie 14:54:08 15 about -- or How, excuse me -- Mr. Guthrie about 14:54:12 16 this case at all? 14:54:13 17 Α. No. All right. How about Mr. Hromowyk's 14:54:13 18 Q. TPMS module? 14:54:16 19 14:54:17 20 No. Α. 14:54:18 21 Q. All right. And so the next time that Mr. Hromowyk came to your dealership to have his 14:54:23 22 14:54:26 23 TPMS module replaced would have been on

Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 104 1 February 17th, 2017, correct? 14:54:27 14:54:30 2 Α. Correct. Okay. And so again that work was done 14:54:31 3 by Howard Guthrie? 14:54:36 4 14:54:37 5 I believe it's -- yes. Α. 14:54:40 6 Q. All right. And the next time would 14:54:43 7 have been May 24th, 2018? That's correct. 14:54:47 Α. 9 0. Okay. And that -- there was also a 14:54:48 14:54:51 10 TPMS replacement on that date, correct? 14:54:53 11 Α. Yes. And then lastly would have been 14:54:53 12 Q. February 11th, 2019, correct? 14:54:55 13 14:54:57 14 A. April 11th, 2019? 14:55:00 15 My apologies. April 11th, 2019. Q. 14:55:04 16 Α. Yes. 14:55:05 17 All right. At no point in time did you Q. ever observe Mr. Hromowyk -- the modules that were 14:55:07 18 14:55:09 19 removed from Mr. Hromowyk's car, correct? 14:55:11 20 That's correct. Α. 14:55:12 21 Q. You never talked to any of your 14:55:13 22 subordinates about what -- you know, what happened 14:55:18 23 with that -- with that part, correct?

105 14:55:21 1 Α. Correct. 14:55:21 2 MR. AZAR: Object to the form. BY MR. KEACH: 14:55:21 3 I mean, that's not something you would 14:55:22 4 do as the guy who owns the garage, right? Talk to 14:55:24 5 14:55:24 6 your mechanics about every single repair that they 14:55:27 make? That's correct. 14:55:27 Α. 9 0. You would expect them to know what 14:55:28 they're doing when they're repairing a car. 14:55:29 10 14:55:31 11 Α. Right. There's certain things I watch them on and certain things I won't. 14:55:33 12 Tire pressure 14:55:35 13 monitor's not really one of them. 14:55:37 14 Q. What would be an example of what you 14:55:42 15 would watch them on? 14:55:43 16 Α. Internal engine repair, deep computer diagnostics, air bag systems, antilock brakes, 14:55:47 17 things like that. That's kind of my -- my area. 14:55:50 18 14:55:53 19 Okay. I'm going to ask if you could Q. just pass that Exhibit over to me, and I'm going to 14:55:56 20 14:56:00 21 organize these in order of the invoices for you. 14:56:03 22 Looks like you beat me to the punch. 14:56:06 23 A. I did.

106 14:56:07 1 Q. You did. All right. You're the man. Thank you. 2 14:56:08 All right. Is this policy -- do you have 14:56:38 any written policies at your garage in terms of how 14:56:49 14:56:52 to fill out these service invoices? 5 14:56:55 6 Α. Not in writing. 14:56:56 0. It's more like common sense, "Hey, here's what you should do"? 14:56:58 Yes. 14:57:00 9 Α. 14:57:00 10 How does one go about removing a TPMS Q. 14:57:06 11 module? 14:57:08 12 It has a -- you have to remove the tire from the wheel, and then the aluminum style, they 14:57:11 13 14:57:17 14 actually have a nut that you would unscrew to pull 14:57:19 15 the TPMS unit out. 14:57:21 16 0. Okay. So it's not -- is it particularly difficult to remove the TPMS module? 14:57:25 17 14:57:29 18 Α. No. 14:57:29 19 All right. Just go through the process Q. for me again, because you told me before the TPMS 14:57:30 20 module's up against the rim of the --14:57:32 21 14:57:34 22 It's mounted to the wheel, right. Α. 14:57:37 23 It's mounted to the -- to the -- to the Q.

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
		10/
14:57:39	1	wheel. Okay.
14:57:40	2	A. You would obviously remove the tire
14:57:41	3	from the vehicle remove the air from the tire,
14:57:44	4	remove the tire from the wheel, remove the TPMS
14:57:47	5	monitor from the wheel.
14:57:49	6	Install a new TPMS monitor, put the tire
14:57:53	7	back on, fill it back up with air, and put it back
14:57:56	8	on the car.
14:57:56	9	Q. All right. So tell me exactly. You've
14:57:57	10	got the tire off. The air's out of the tire, and
14:57:57	11	the tire's off the car.
14:57:58	12	So you're sitting there you've got a
14:58:00	13	you've got a car up on a jack, right?
14:58:01	14	A. Yes.
14:58:02	15	Q. What do you guys you guys have a
14:58:03	16	lift?
14:58:04	17	A. Yes.
14:58:04	18	Q. Is that what it's called, a lift?
14:58:06	19	A. Yes.
14:58:06	20	Q. So you've got it up on the lift, so
14:58:08	21	it's up where you can see under the car, right?
14:58:10	22	A. Yes.
14:58:10	23	Q. Okay. And so you've got the tire off

Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 108 14:58:13 and you've got the wheel sitting there. 1 2 How does one go about removing the TPMS 14:58:16 module at that point? 14:58:19 3 It has one nut that screws onto the Α. 14:58:21 4 valve stem that holds it to the wheel. 14:58:24 5 14:58:26 6 Q. Okay. And is that in front of the wheel or behind the wheel? 14:58:28 Α. It's --14:58:29 8 9 When I say in front of the wheel -- let 14:58:30 Q. 14:58:32 10 me do a better job. 14:58:33 11 Is it on the road side of the wheel or on 14:58:35 12 | the interior of the wheel? A. It would be on the road side of the 14:58:37 13 14:58:39 14 wheel. 14:58:40 15 Q. Okay. And so how difficult -- so it's 14:58:42 16 a nut. What do you need, a wrench or --A socket. It's just one socket, you 14:58:44 17 Α. 14:58:46 18 know, one -- one nut. 14:58:48 19 Okay. And then where are the grooves Q. 14:58:50 20 for the nut? The threads? 14:58:51 21 Α. 14:58:52 22 My apologies. The threads. Q.

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The threads -- the threads are built

14:58:54 23

Α.

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14:58:56 1 into the shaft of the aluminum stem itself.

Q. Okay. And would those -- and where would those grooves originate from? Would they originate -- do you understand what I mean?

Like you're dealing with a part, and it has grooves, and -- you know, you shove this thing through. There will be grooves there, and you put the nut on, right?

- A. Right.
- Q. Okay. So would those -- those grooves would originate from inside the wheel and then go out; fair to say?
- A. They're not always threaded, grooved, the whole entire length of the stem, so the part of the stem that actually protrudes through the wheel may not have threads on it, and -- that part might be just smooth, and then the -- the threaded part would protrude out of the wheel.
 - Q. Okay. Got you.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So where the -- where the -- where the wheel should meet the nut, that's where the grooves would be.

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14:59:40 18

14:59:42 19

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14:59:46 22

14:59:49 23

110 1 Α. Yes. 14:59:50 2 The grooves will not go up and down the 14:59:50 Q. entire length of the stem, correct? 14:59:52 3 Α. Not usually, correct. Yes. 14:59:54 4 14:59:56 5 What about on Mr. Hromowyk's vehicle? Q. 14:59:57 6 Α. I believe that his is -- is like that 15:00:02 where the -- where the grooves would not travel 15:00:04 down the entire length of the shaft, but I'm -- I'm not a hundred percent on that. 15:00:07 But that's how the majority of all of them 15:00:08 10 15:00:11 11 are. All right. So this is -- removing this 15:00:12 12 Q. is as sample as getting a socket, hooking it up to 15:00:14 13 15:00:18 14 that nut, ratcheting the socket, removing the nut, 15:00:22 15 and then taking the TPMS module out of the interior 15:00:26 16 of the wheel. 15:00:26 17 Α. Correct. Okay. So it doesn't sound like, you 15:00:27 18 Q. 15:00:30 19 know -- sounds like it's something that would take an experienced mechanic, after the tire's off and 15:00:32 20 the air's out of the tire, about a minute to do. 15:00:34 21 15:00:37 22 It's a pretty quick process, yes. Α.

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All right.

Q.

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15:00:39	1	A. It takes longer to reprogram them
15:00:41	2	electronically than it does to actually install
15:00:44	3	them in the vehicle.
15:00:45	4	$oldsymbol{Q}.$ All right. And is there any way we
15:00:47	5	talked before about your affidavit with, you know,
15:00:50	6	special care to remove these things.
15:00:53	7	Is there any way to exercise special care to
15:00:56	8	get a TPMS module off a car?
15:00:58	9	A. Not particularly. It's removing the
15:01:02	10	nut, you know.
15:01:05	11	Occasionally the nut might be so rotted and
15:01:07	12	corroded that we may have to use the hammer, like I
15:01:10	13	told you. You might have to smash it out of there,
15:01:13	14	but it's pretty rare.
15:01:14	15	But there's no there's no real special
15:01:17	16	nothing really special you have to do, no.
15:01:39	17	MR. KEACH: Just reviewing my notes. Off
15:01:41	18	the record for a moment.
15:01:43	19	(Discussion off the record.)
15:01:54	20	BY MR. KEACH:
15:02:36	21	Q. All right. Now, this is self-evident,
15:02:39	22	but I just want to be thorough:
15:02:40	23	You don't know you have no idea what the

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15:02:42 1 condition was of these various valve stems that you guys replaced; fair to say?

A. That's fair to say.

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- Q. All right. I mean, you -- you testified before that, you know, it's your belief that they were corroded, but you don't know for sure.
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. And you don't have any knowledge -- do you have any knowledge as you sit here today that your mechanics damaged these valve stems when they took them off the car?
 - A. No, I do not.
- Q. Now, going back to Exhibit UU, three of the four times these valve stems were replaced, they were done by Mr. Guthrie, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And then one time they were done by Mr. Miceli? Is that how you say it?
 - A. They were done by Bob Leman.
- Q. Oh, Bob Leman. My apologies. Scott Miceli was the service advisor.
 - A. Yes.

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			113
15:03:45	1	Q.	My apologies. Okay. And I think you
15:03:47	2	said Bob st	ill works for you.
15:03:48	3	Α.	Bob works for me, yes.
15:03:50	4	Q.	Okay. Did you talk to Bob at all
15:03:53	5	Α.	No.
15:03:54	6	Q.	about Mr. Hromowyk's valve stems?
15:03:57	7	Α.	No.
15:03:57	8	Q.	Did you tell anybody you had to come
15:04:01	9	here today 1	pesides your wife?
15:04:03	10	Α.	Well, the guys at work, including Bob.
15:04:13	11	Q.	I think you said that they knew you had
15:04:14	12	to be here	coday.
15:04:15	13	A.	Yes.
15:04:15	14	Q.	And then they were probably making fun
15:04:18	15	of you.	
15:04:19	16	A.	I told them how much I was looking
15:04:21	17	forward to	this for the for the 30 bucks I made
15:04:24	18	on a tire p	ressure monitor.
15:04:29	19	Q.	Anybody else?
15:04:29	20	Α.	No.
15:04:56	21	Q.	Did you tell your significant other you
15:04:58	22	were coming	here today?
15:04:58	23	A.	Yes, I did.

Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 114 15:04:59 1 Q. All right. So anybody beyond your 2 significant other or the guys that you work with? 15:05:01 Α. No. 15:05:04 3 15:05:04 Q. When is the last time that you had 4 15:05:06 5 communication with Mr. Azar? 15:05:11 6 Α. I think it was -- might have been -- I 15:05:13 think it was August. Was that -- I'm not positive. 15:05:16 8 Last time he emailed. I believe it was August. 9 Would that be in conjunction with you 15:05:20 Q. returning the affidavit to him --15:05:22 10 15:05:23 11 Α. Yes. 15:05:23 12 -- that he asked for? 0. 15:05:24 13 Α. Yes. 15:05:25 14 Q. No communication since then? 15:05:26 15 Α. Not that I recall. 15:05:28 16 Q. All right. And you didn't talk to Mr. Azar about the substance of your testimony at 15:05:29 17 any point in time today, correct? 15:05:31 18 Correct. 15:05:34 19 Α. 15:05:34 20 Q. All right.

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call a colleague of mine in Washington, and then

we're all done. We'll have you out of here.

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15:05:45 22

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MR. KEACH: I'm going to take just a minute,

Brown - Azar - 10-8-19 115 15:05:51 1 MR. AZAR: I've got about ten minutes of 15:05:52 2 questions to ask. Whatever you want to do. 15:05:56 Why don't you just ask him. MR. KEACH: (Discussion off the record.) 15:05:57 4 15:06:04 5 15:06:04 6 **EXAMINATION BY MR. AZAR:** 7 15:06:04 Mr. Brown, my name is Tom Azar. 15:06:06 8 9 represent FCA US. 15:06:09 Just following up on before, in terms of 15:06:13 10 15:06:19 11 removing a TPMS unit from a vehicle, you and Mr. Keach were just discussing about how, on some 15:06:26 12 occasions, a technician would be essentially forced 15:06:29 13 15:06:32 14 to use a hammer to -- to smash the nut off. 15:06:36 15 Is there more than one nut on a TPMS unit? 15:06:39 16 Α. No. 15:06:39 17 Okay. Are you aware of whether Q. Mr. Hromowyk's claims are about a damaged nut or a 15:06:45 18 corroded nut? 15:06:50 19 15:06:51 20 I am not sure. Okay. And you can't say -- well, 15:06:53 21 Q. 15:06:58 22 strike that.

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Is it fair to say you don't have any

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1 15:07:03 information in Brownie's records or talking to 15:07:06 2 people at Brownie's as to whether some nut on Mr. Hromowyk's vehicle's TPMS unit was smashed off 15:07:12 with a hammer? 15:07:15 4 15:07:16 5 That's fair to say. Α. 15:07:17 6 Q. Okay. And we just don't know that, 15:07:21 because there's no record of it, no information 15:07:24 about it, right? 15:07:25 9 Α. Right. 15:07:31 10 If someone is smashing a nut with a Q. 15:07:34 11 hammer on a TPMS unit, that could damage the rest of the TPMS unit, right? 15:07:40 12 15:07:41 13 Α. Yes. 15:07:42 14 Q. And if a technician is -- is pulling a 15:07:46 15 TPMS unit out to replace it, absent some contrary 15:07:50 16 instruction, they're just going to assume they can -- they can smash that thing to oblivion and no 15:07:52 17

A. That --

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one's going to care, right?

- Q. The TPMS unit itself. Not, obviously, other parts of the vehicle.
- A. Right. Well, unless they were having trouble getting it out the proper way, there would

117 15:08:08 1 be no reason for them to smash it. 15:08:10 2 Like I say, if the nut was corroded or it was stripped out and they couldn't get it off, then 15:08:13 3 they might smash it out, but typically, just to 15:08:15 4 15:08:18 replace it, they wouldn't smash it. 5 15:08:20 6 Q. And a TPMS unit or -- well, a nut on 15:08:23 any vehicle that's been in place for six, seven, eight, nine, ten years, those nuts can sometimes be 15:08:28 very difficult to remove, in your experience? 15:08:31 Yes. 15:08:33 10 Α. 15:08:41 11 Q. And so it would be more likely that, in a situation where you're talking about a nut that's 15:08:45 12 been installed on a vehicle component for six, 15:08:46 13 15:08:51 14 seven, eight, nine, ten years, that you'd have to 15:08:54 15 use a fair amount of force or a hammer or -- or 15:08:57 16 something that would alter the condition of the 15:08:59 17 component in removing it, right? 15:09:01 18 MR. KEACH: Objection to form. THE WITNESS: It's possible, but not all 15:09:03 19 nuts, I mean, you know. 15:09:05 20 BY MR. AZAR: 15:09:09 21 15:09:09 22 Oh, not all nuts, but it's possible. Q.

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Yes.

Α.

15:09:11 23

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15:09:12 1 Q. It would not surprise you that that 2 would be required on a vehicle component that is, 15:09:14 you know, six, seven, eight, nine, ten years old? 15:09:17 Yes, in this part of the country, that 15:09:19 Α. 4 15:09:22 wouldn't surprise me, no. 5 15:09:23 6 Q. Okay. I'm going to show you a copy of 15:09:54 your declaration. I understand it was previously marked as Exhibit RR. 15:09:56 Now, Mr. Brown, I know you went through this 15:10:15 9 declaration before. This is a declaration that 15:10:19 10 15:10:25 11 someone representing FCA US typed up based on information you'd given to FCA US, right? 15:10:29 12 Α. 15:10:31 13 Yes. 15:10:31 14 Q. Okay. And in the first paragraph at 15:10:36 15 the bottom, you state: 15:10:37 16 I make this declaration based on personal knowledge of facts set forth herein, including my 15:10:39 17 review of the records of Brownie's that are kept in 15:10:42 18 15:10:44 19 the ordinary course of its business and information provided to me by persons upon whom I regularly 15:10:47 20 rely in the ordinary course of my business. 15:10:50 21 Do you see that? 15:10:52 22 15:10:53 23 A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And in putting the information together for your declaration, that's all you could do, right? You could rely on what you personally knew, what Brownie's records show, and what someone at Brownie's might recall from events that occurred years and years ago.

- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. In paragraph 2, you talk about how it's Brownie's normal practice that if a customer asks for a part that is removed to be returned to them, that's typically reflected in the invoice and in Brownie's records, right?
- A. Yes, that's how we're supposed to do things.
- Q. Okay. And is that policy communicated to all the employees at Brownie's?
- A. Well, there is only one person who would put that note on a -- on an invoice. It would be the service manager himself.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. And then when the -- when the technician gets it, he'll see where it says save old part.

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15:11:51 1 Q. And that's because the -- the 2 service -- is it the service -- you called it the 15:11:54 service manager? 15:11:55 3 15:11:57 Α. Service writer, service manager, yes. 4 15:11:59 5 Okay. So how things work at Brownie's Q. 15:12:02 6 is that a customer interacts with a service manager or a service writer. 15:12:05 15:12:06 8 Α. Yes. And that person types up instructions, 9 15:12:07 0. and those instructions are provided in written form 15:12:10 10 15:12:13 11 to a technician who's actually going to do the work on the vehicle, right? 15:12:17 12 15:12:18 13 Α. Yes. 15:12:18 14 Typically it's not someone at the front Q. 15:12:23 15 desk of the repair shop just goes back and orally 15:12:26 16 tells someone what to do. They write it down, and for good reason, right? 15:12:29 17 15:12:30 18 That's what they're supposed to do for Α. good reason, so they don't look like a bunch of 15:12:32 19 15:12:36 20 amateurs. 15:12:37 21 Q. Right. Because otherwise, mistakes are 15:12:38 22 going to be made.

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15:12:39 23

Α.

Yes.

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15:12:39 1 Q. Okay. Are Brownie's invoices and 2 records generally accurate as they can possibly be? 15:12:42 Α. Yes. 15:12:46 3 15:12:46 Okay. Do you have any reason to think 4 Q. 15:12:51 that when you looked through the invoices -- for 5 15:12:56 6 example, Exhibit UU -- that the service managers 15:13:04 didn't follow Brownie's policy in terms of writing down -- if a part's going to be saved, that needs 15:13:06 to be written on the invoice itself? 15:13:12 15:13:14 10 A. If -- if Mr. Hromowyk is in possession 15:13:16 11 of his old tire pressure monitors, then I would say yes, somebody didn't do it the way they were 15:13:20 12 15:13:23 13 supposed to. 15:13:24 14 Q. Right. And that's -- that's another 15:13:26 15 point I'd like to clarify with you. 15:13:27 16 You don't know anything about, other than Mr. Keach's representations, that Mr. Hromowyk has 15:13:31 17 any part removed from his vehicle other than the 15:13:33 18 part removed in 2019, right? 15:13:36 19 15:13:38 20 Correct. Α. 15:13:39 21 Q. Okay. And so when you were asked 15:13:43 22 earlier about, "Well, maybe this part of my

declaration would be incorrect if Mr. Hromowyk

15:13:47 23

122 15:13:50 actually has the component that was removed from 1 2 his vehicle," that's an assumption that you can't 15:13:53 make, right? 15:13:57 3 You don't have any reason to think that 15:13:57 4 Mr. Hromowyk is in possession of any component 15:13:59 5 15:14:01 6 removed from his vehicle other than the TPMS 15:14:05 component that was removed in 2019, right? 15:14:08 8 Α. That's the only one that I can personally confirm, just because I see it in 15:14:11 9 writing. 15:14:13 10 15:14:13 11 Q. Right. And in terms of looking at Brownie's records, talking to people at Brownie's, 15:14:17 12 that's the only information Brownie's has of any 15:14:22 13 15:14:25 14 component being returned to Mr. Hromowyk; is that 15:14:28 15 fair? 15:14:29 16 A. Yes. 15:14:29 17 Okay. And you don't have any Q. independent way to confirm whether whatever 15:14:37 18 Mr. Hromowyk says he has is genuine, do you? 15:14:41 19 No, I do not. 15:14:44 20 Α. 15:14:53 21 Q. In your declaration in paragraph 3, you 15:14:59 22 state: 15:15:00 23 Mr. Hromowyk did not inform Brownie's of any

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15:15:02 1 planned or pending lawsuit related to this 15:15:04 2 component. Do you see that? 15:15:04 3 15:15:06 Α. Yes. 4 15:15:06 5 Okay. Now, that fact is not -- strike Q. 15:15:14 6 that. 15:15:15 Brownie's has no records and you and your 15:15:20 8 employees have no information indicating that 9 Mr. Hromowyk ever told anyone at Brownie's that he 15:15:22 was planning any lawsuit or had filed any lawsuit, 15:15:26 10 15:15:29 11 right? 15:15:30 12 That's correct. Α. 15:15:30 13 Okay. And in fact, are you aware that Q. 15:15:34 14 Mr. Hromowyk himself testified that he had not told 15:15:39 15 anyone at Brownie's about any planned or pending lawsuit? 15:15:42 16

A. No, I'm not.

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- Q. Okay. Are you aware that Mr. Hromowyk himself testified that he did not ask anyone at Brownie's to take any special precautions to avoid altering components removed from his vehicle?
 - A. No, I'm not.
 - Q. And Brownie's records and Brownie's

personnel, as far as they know and as far as they reflect, no request to avoid altering or damaging any component removed from Mr. Hromowyk's vehicle was ever made, yes?

- A. That's correct.
- Q. And everything available to Brownie's and to you and the people who work at Brownie's indicates that, with regard to the 2017 TPMS removal and the 2018 TPMS removal, that nothing was, in fact, saved and that whatever was removed, the TPMS unit, that was thrown in the trash.
- A. I have no physical records that those were saved, correct.
- Q. And you have no other records or other information indicating they were saved, right?
 - A. Right.
- Q. Other than Mr. Keach's representation to you that Mr. Hromowyk thinks he has something that was returned to him, are you aware of any evidence anywhere that suggests those components were not thrown in the trash?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Do you have any information or any

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Brown - Azar - 10-8-19 125 15:17:49 reason to believe those components removed in 2017 1 15:17:52 2 and 2018 -- that those TPMS components were thrown in the trash? 15:17:56 Α. What was that again? What's that 15:17:59 4 15:18:01 again? 5 15:18:01 6 Q. Let me try it again. 15:18:03 Do you have any reason whatsoever to think 15:18:06 that the TPMS components removed from Mr. Hromowyk's vehicle in 2017 and 2018 were not 15:18:09 9 thrown in the trash? 15:18:14 10 15:18:17 11 Α. No, I do not. 15:18:19 12 As far as you know and as far as Brownie's records and personnel know, they were 15:18:20 13 15:18:24 14 thrown in the trash, right? 15:18:26 15 Right. Α. 15:18:52 16 MR. AZAR: Mr. Keach, the February 12th, 2013 invoice, that's Exhibit SS, correct? 15:18:54 17 MR. KEACH: One moment, please. 15:18:57 18 February 12th, 2013, is SS, yes. 15:19:04 19 15:19:08 20 BY MR. AZAR: 15:19:18 21 Q. Mr. Brown, is it fair to say that you have no personal memory of working on this repair 15:19:21 22 15:19:26 23 in February 2013?

126 15:19:28 1 Α. Yes. 2 Okay. Do you have any reason to think 15:19:29 Q. that you personally had any involvement with this 15:19:32 3 repair? 15:19:34 4 15:19:35 5 Α. No. 15:19:35 6 And it's fair to say that you can't Q. 15:19:44 swear to whatever did or didn't happen here because 15:19:49 you weren't involved. All you know is what's reflected in black and white on the invoice itself, 9 15:19:52 right? 15:19:55 10 15:19:55 11 Α. That's correct. What would Brownie's charge to replace 15:20:19 12 just the nut on a TPMS unit? Is that something 15:20:20 13 15:20:23 14 that would be included in that repair kit that we 15:20:27 15 looked at earlier? 15:20:29 16 Α. That's exactly what that is, yes. 15:20:30 17 Okay. So the nut on the TPMS unit, if Q. I'm looking at Exhibit UU, costs about \$5? 15:20:41 18 15:20:51 19 Α. Yes. 15:20:54 20 Okay. So when we were looking at the Q. 2013 repair, it's possible that someone at 15:21:29 21 Brownie's may have replaced nuts on TPMS units at 15:21:37 22 15:21:42 23 that time if they showed some problem or corrosion

Brown - Azar - 10-8-19 127 15:21:45 or just if they cracked? 1 15:21:47 2 It would be noted on the -- on the invoice in 2013 if that were the case. 15:21:50 3 That invoice does note a new valve 15:21:59 Q. 4 15:22:02 stem, right? 5 15:22:03 6 Α. Correct. 7 For each tire? 15:22:04 0. 15:22:06 8 Α. Yes. 15:22:06 9 And you mentioned earlier that **Q**. sometimes costs from the labor side or the repair 15:22:19 10 15:22:26 11 side will be sort of mixed together in the invoice? I believe you testified to something to that 15:22:29 12 effect. We looked at one of the invoices where no 15:22:31 13 15:22:33 14 labor was listed, but it had just been folded into 15:22:36 15 the cost of the parts? Typically we'll say, behind the cost of 15:22:38 16 Α. the part, the word installed. 15:22:42 17 15:22:47 18 Q. But not always? No, always. It's either going to have 15:22:48 19 Α. a labor charge or it will say the word installed 15:22:53 20 15:22:55 21 after.

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preservation of evidence or forensics?

Is anyone at Brownie's trained in

15:23:29 22

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128 15:23:40 1 Α. No. 2 And as you sit here today, aside from 15:25:19 Q. Mr. Keach's representation that Mr. Hromowyk still 15:25:24 3 has some components beyond the 2019 component, do 15:25:27 4 15:25:32 you have any reason to think anything in your 5 15:25:34 6 declaration is false? 15:25:36 Α. No. 15:25:37 8 Q. Okay. 9 MR. AZAR: I have no further questions. 15:25:39 15:25:44 10 15:25:44 11 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY MR. KEACH: 15:25:44 12 Okay. If you have a nut on a TPMS 15:25:45 13 Q. 15:25:51 14 module that's corroded, there are a number of 15:25:53 15 things that a mechanic would do before he'd pull 15:25:57 16 out the hammer. Am I right about that? 15:25:59 17 He would attempt to remove it first before he would smash it, yes. 15:26:01 18 15:26:04 19 Q. Now, this is -- like represents the limited mechanical knowledge that I know, but one 15:26:05 20 tool that mechanics use to try to get corroded nuts 15:26:08 21 to move is WD-40 or some sort of lubricant, right? 15:26:11 22 15:26:15 23 A. Yes, for sure.

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15:26:17	1	Q. They'd spray WD-40 on there and give it
15:26:17	2	a minute and then try to get it out; fair to say?
15:26:19	3	A. Yes. Yes.
15:26:20	4	Q. Sometimes they heat it up a little bit
15:26:24	5	and that helps?
15:26:24	6	A. Well, on a rusty nut, yes. We wouldn't
15:26:27	7	do that on a a tire pressure monitor we wouldn't
15:26:31	8	heat up, because when you've got a torch out, the
15:26:32	9	risk of damaging the wheel is too great if you're
15:26:35	10	going to have a torch that close to the yes.
15:26:37	11	$oldsymbol{Q}$. Got you. So anything else you would to
15:26:41	12	get a corroded nut off the TPMS module besides use
15:26:48	13	WD-40?
15:26:49	14	A. That's pretty much it, yes.
15:26:50	15	Q. Okay. And so I'm going to ask you to
15:26:55	16	take a look at what we previously marked in this
15:26:58	17	case as Exhibit PP.
15:27:02	18	And this is a photo that Mr. Hromowyk took
15:27:12	19	of his nut of his one of his TPMS modules before
15:27:17	20	it was replaced.
15:27:18	21	A. Okay.
15:27:18	22	Q. Now, I know there's a limit to what you

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15:27:20 23 can determine by taking a look at a photo, but does

130 15:27:24 that look like a nut you can still get off, you 1 15:27:27 2 know, even with the crack there? Most likely. 15:27:28 Α. All right. Now, you know, if Mr. --15:27:31 4 Q. let's assume -- you know, I asked you this before, 15:27:44 15:27:45 6 but I want to be more specific. Mr. Hromowyk came in and says, "Hey, take 15:27:46 special care to remove this TPMS module for me." 15:27:49 It ain't going to matter to the mechanic on 9 15:27:53 the floor. He's going to get it off using a 15:27:55 10 15:27:59 11 socket, WD-40, and, if he needs to, hammering the thing, right? 15:28:03 12 Yes, if it's -- like if it's stuck, he 15:28:04 13 Α. 15:28:06 14 might give it a few extra minutes trying to get it 15:28:09 15 out before smashing it out because the customer 15:28:11 16 asked us, but if it's -- if it's stuck and it won't come apart, eventually he's going to just whack it. 15:28:14 17 All right. 15:28:14 18 Q. 15:28:17 19 Α. So --Okay. Well, if somebody whacks on a 15:28:18 20 Q. TPMS module, that's pretty much going to break it, 15:28:22 21 15:28:23 22 right? A. It will --15:28:24 23

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 131
15:28:24	1	Q. That's the point of hammering.
15:28:26	2	A. Yes, the whack would be to drive it
15:28:28	3	through the hole, and it would it would damage
15:28:30	4	the the outer part of the stem.
15:28:32	5	Q. Okay. And so someone that's a trained
15:28:35	6	mechanical engineer or metallurgist could look at
15:28:38	7	that and figure out that that happened, right?
15:28:41	8	A. Yes.
15:28:41	9	Q. Okay. You could probably take a look
15:28:43	10	at it and see if that happened; fair to say?
15:28:46	11	A. Yes.
15:28:46	12	Q. All right. It would be evident by
15:28:48	13	looking at the actual at the actual TPMS module,
15:28:51	14	correct?
15:28:52	15	A. Most likely. If it was stuck in there
15:28:55	16	hard enough and you had to give it a hard enough
15:28:57	17	whack, there would be a dent or a flat part on the
15:29:00	18	top or something along those lines.
15:29:02	19	Q. That would reflect that somebody had to
15:29:03	20	take a hammer to it.
15:29:03	21	A. Yes.
15:29:04	22	Q. So other than that, other than taking a
15:29:05	23	hammer to it, there's no difference you know, if

I came in, again, and said, "This TPMS module is made out of solid gold and you guys have to be extra special careful in getting it out of there," it ain't going to -- "You're not going to hammer it," it ain't going to make any difference. You're going to use a socket wrench on the nut to get the thing out of the wheel, right?

- A. Yes.
- Q. All right. Now, same for a lawsuit.

 If I came in and said, "Hey, I'm involved in a lawsuit against FCA US, and so I need you guys, you know, to take care of this module for me because I'm in a lawsuit against FCA US," it isn't going to change how you get the TPMS module off the car, is it?
- A. No, because if -- if it's got to come out and that's the only way to get it out, that's what you're going to do.
- Q. Yes, all right. I mean, if you -- and the way you get it out is use the socket wrench -- first you use the socket wrench. If it doesn't work, then you use the socket wrench with WD-40, right?

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- 15:29:56 1 **A.** Right.
- 15:29:56 2 Q. And then, you know -- then you hammer 15:29:58 3 on it to get it out.
- 15:30:00 4 **A.** Correct.

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- Q. Did -- did Mr. -- when you spoke to

 15:30:05 6 Mr. Azar before filling out your declaration, did

 15:30:08 7 he identify who he worked for?
 - A. I believe he did. I'm not a hundred percent positive, but I -- I believe he did.
 - Q. Okay. Well, do you know -- I mean, did you know at the time you filled this out who Mr. Azar worked for?
 - MR. AZAR: Object to the form. Asked and answered.

BY MR. KEACH:

- Q. Well, I don't mean today. Today it's self-evident.
 - A. Right.
- Q. I mean, I'm the lawyer for Tom Hromowyk and Bob Tomassini and a proposed class of other people that bought these cars, and Mr. Azar works

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Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 134 15:30:42 for, you know, FCA US. 1 15:30:43 2 Α. Right. But prior to you filling out the 15:30:44 3 declaration, did you know that Mr. Azar worked for 15:30:45 4 15:30:49 5 FCA US? 15:30:49 6 MR. AZAR: Object to the form. Asked and 7 15:30:51 answered. THE WITNESS: You know, I'm sure it was in 15:30:51 8 his -- I'm assuming, I should say, it was in his 15:30:58 9 15:31:02 10 emails and whatnot. I guess I never really thought 15:31:05 11 to myself, "I better make sure which firm he's working for." I was just out to basically answer 15:31:08 12 the questions to the best of my knowledge, you 15:31:10 13 15:31:13 14 know. 15:31:13 15 BY MR. KEACH: 15:31:13 16 Q. Okay. And also avoid having to come 15:31:15 17 here today. 15:31:16 18 Yes. Α. 15:31:16 19 Object to the form. MR. AZAR: 15:31:16 20 BY MR. KEACH: 15:31:26 21 Q. Now, in your affirmation, it says that 15:31:28 22 you relied on other people -- or your declaration

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says you relied on other people that worked for

15:31:31 23

Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 135 15:31:33 Brownie's to assist you in providing the 1 15:31:35 2 declaration. Who were those other people? 15:31:35 It says that in my declaration? 15:31:40 Α. 4 15:31:43 5 Yes, I'll show it to you just quickly Q. 15:31:45 6 here. It says -- Mr. -- Mr. Azar reviewed it with 15:31:49 you during your testimony, so I put it back up, Exhibit RR. 15:31:52 8 9 And it says: And information provided to me 15:31:54 by persons upon whom I regularly rely in the 15:31:57 10 15:32:00 11 ordinary course of my business. Yes, I guess I don't know that that's a 15:32:22 12 hundred percent accurate, because I didn't 15:32:24 13 15:32:26 14 actually -- I got my information from what's in my 15:32:29 15 computer, what's on my records, but I did not 15:32:32 16 personally speak to, say, Howard Guthrie, who would have installed them. 15:32:35 17 Okay. I'm going to show you what we're 15:33:31 18 Q. going to mark as Exhibit VV, so give me just a 15:33:34 19 15:33:38 20 moment. 15:33:38 21

The following was marked for Identification:

HROMOWYK EXH. VV letter dated August 2, 2019,

one page

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15:33:42 1 BY MR. KEACH: And before I show you this, you don't 15:33:43 2 Q. have any knowledge about what Mr. Hromowyk said 15:33:44 3 during his deposition, do you? 15:33:46 4 15:33:47 No, I do not. 5 Α. 15:34:10 6 Q. Okay. This is a letter that was 15:34:12 forwarded by my colleague, Gary Graifman, to Steve D'Aunoy, who is the lead -- or the main defense 15:34:16 attorney in this case. It was also circulated to 15:34:19 9 Mr. Azar. 15:34:22 10 15:34:22 11 I'm just going to read it into the record briefly. It's dated August 2nd, 2019. 15:34:24 12 15:34:27 13 "I understand that at the deposition of 15:34:31 14 Mr. Hromowyk, you requested inspection of the 15:34:33 15 failed Chrysler TPMS units that were on 15:34:36 16 Mr. Hromowyk's vehicle which, after failure, were 15:34:39 17 retained by him. Those are currently in the possession of our expert, Eric Sullivan. 15:34:42 18 15:34:44 19 "We would propose that you designate an expert to inspect those at Mr. Sullivan's offices 15:34:47 20 in Santa Clara, California. Please let us know if 15:34:50 21 15:34:53 22 this is acceptable and, if so, the estimated date

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at which your expert wishes to inspect the failed

15:34:57 23

137 15:35:00 1 Chrysler TPMS units and the name of such expert. 15:35:06 2 "Truly yours, Gary Graifman." So I just want to confirm: 15:35:08 3 This letter was sent to Mr. Azar and his 15:35:09 4 15:35:13 colleagues like roughly a little under three weeks 5 15:35:16 6 before he secured the affidavit from you, correct? 15:35:18 Α. Correct. 15:35:19 8 Q. And he did not bring this to your attention, correct? 9 15:35:21 Correct. 15:35:21 10 Α. 15:35:22 11 Q. And you had no knowledge of the information that's in this letter, correct? 15:35:24 12 Α. Correct. 15:35:26 13 15:35:28 14 Q. And you also have no knowledge that the 15:35:32 15 Plaintiffs' counsel invited Mr. Azar to have an 15:35:35 16 expert come and look at his -- look at these TPMS units, correct? 15:35:39 17 15:35:40 18 Α. Correct. And you had no knowledge about whether 15:35:40 19 Q. or not Mr. Azar or any of his colleagues actually 15:35:41 20 took that step of hiring an expert to come and look 15:35:43 21 15:35:45 22 at these units, correct? 15:35:47 23 A. Correct.

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15:35:48	1	Q. And just to circle back, if
15:35:57	2	Mr. Hromowyk retained two of these units and
15:35:59	3	that would be the we have four repairs. There
15:36:01	4	was the first repair. He did not retain the the
15:36:05	5	unit from the repair in 2015, okay, but then we
15:36:09	6	have the repairs in February of 2017 and May of
15:36:15	7	2018.
15:36:16	8	So just to confirm: If Mr. Hromowyk has his
15:36:20	9	TPMS modules from those two repairs in 2017 and
15:36:24	10	2018, the facts that you represented in your
15:36:28	11	affidavit about those units being disposed of or
15:36:33	12	Mr. Hromowyk not asking for them are not accurate,
15:36:36	13	correct?
15:36:36	14	A. If Mr. Hromowyk is in possession of the
15:36:39	15	TPMSs off his car, then yes, that is not accurate.
15:36:43	16	Q. Okay.
15:36:46	17	MR. KEACH: I need just a moment to make a
15:36:48	18	quick phone call.
15:40:13	19	(A recess was then taken.)
15:40:14	20	BY MR. KEACH:
15:40:17	21	Q. Do you know Tom Hromowyk outside of
15:40:18	22	your shop?
15:40:19	23	A. No, I do not.

		Brown - Keach - 10-8-19
15:40:21	1	Q. All right. Now, you you have
15:40:23	2	different types of customers at your at your
15:40:27	3	mechanic shop.
15:40:28	4	There are people that take meticulous care
15:40:31	5	of their cars, correct?
15:40:32	6	A. Yes.
15:40:32	7	Q. And then there are people like me who
15:40:34	8	like drive their car through the mud like every few
15:40:37	9	days and just beat the crap out of it, right?
15:40:39	10	A. Yes.
15:40:40	11	Q. Okay. But there are people that, you
15:40:41	12	know, they bring their cars into the shop, and
15:40:42	13	they're just immaculate, right?
15:40:45	14	A. Yes.
15:40:45	15	Q. Okay. Did you see anybody with, quote,
15:40:47	16	unquote, immaculate you know, someone that you
15:40:49	17	knew took great care of their car that had problems
15:40:52	18	like this with their valve stems?
15:40:55	19	A. Yes, I have.
15:40:56	20	Q. Okay. Can you just describe the person
15:40:58	21	and how well they take care of their car?
15:41:00	22	A. Say again?

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MR. AZAR: Object to the form.

15:41:01 23

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15:41:01 1 BY MR. KEACH: Can you describe the person? You know, 15:41:02 2 Is it a woman? What do they do? 15:41:04 is it a man? Not -- don't give me their names. 15:41:07 4 15:41:09 Yes, no, we have a husband and wife 5 Α. 15:41:10 6 that come in that I can think of that are pretty 15:41:15 meticulous about their car, and they're having 15:41:16 problems with a valve stem or two. 9 And do they have the Grand Caravan 15:41:18 **Q**. vehicle or the Town & Country? 15:41:21 10 15:41:22 11 Α. One of them, yes. Okay. Do you know -- do you get shop 15:41:23 12 bulletins or any sort of notification from 15:41:27 13 15:41:29 14 manufacturers directly to your shop about problems 15:41:32 15 they may have with their cars? Such as a technical service bulletin? 15:41:34 16 Is that what you're trying -- when you say shop 15:41:38 17 bulletin, or --15:41:40 18 15:41:42 19 Q. Yes, like, you know, technical. Like, "Hey, you know, we've got this problem with our 15:41:43 20 car. You know, keep an eye out for it." 15:41:46 21 15:41:49 22 Not really. Recalls, things like that, Α. 15:41:52 23 come up automatically when we open an order for a

15:41:55 1 car, but we don't get a -- what you're describing.

- Q. Okay. So you get recall notices but not like technical service bulletins.
- A. Well, technical service bulletins

 are -- are available to us if we're looking for a

 particular problem, but they're not fed to us

 like -- I don't know how to describe that.

When a car comes in with a problem, say you come in and your air-conditioning don't work, you know, we go to diagnose the problem. A thing called a technical service bulletin may come up and say, "We have had issues with such-and-such a part on this air-conditioning system on such-and-such a vehicle, and here's how you should proceed."

- Q. Got you. All right. You never heard from Chrysler about any issues with these valve stems, correct?
 - A. Not that I can recall.
- Q. And you never -- did you ever make any effort to reach out to Chrysler or a dealership about any -- what the problem was with these valve stems?
 - A. No.

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15:42:03

15:42:05

15:42:08

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15:42:25 11

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15:42:34 14

15:42:36 15

15:42:38 16

15:42:41 17

15:42:42 18

15:42:44 19

15:42:46 20

15:42:51 23

Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 142 15:42:52 1 Q. All right. 15:42:52 2 MR. KEACH: That's all I have. Tom, do you have anything in follow-up? 15:42:56 3 MR. AZAR: No. 15:42:57 4 15:42:57 5 MR. KEACH: So that concludes your 15:42:58 6 examination. Under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, 15:42:59 15:43:01 you have the right to read and sign the transcript, 9 and basically what that means is you read it over 15:43:03 15:43:05 10 for accuracy. 15:43:06 11 It's my preference that you read and sign your transcript. Will you do that? 15:43:08 12 15:43:11 13 THE WITNESS: You want me to read the whole 15:43:12 14 thing? 15:43:12 15 MR. AZAR: You also have the option to waive 15:43:15 16 signature and trust the court reporter got it 15:43:16 17 right. MR. KEACH: He's right. You also have the 15:43:16 18 option not to do that. You have to read it, and if 15:43:17 19 there's something wrong with it, you send it back. 15:43:18 20 MR. AZAR: Like right now you're saying? 15:43:21 21 15:43:25 22 MR. KEACH: No, no, no, I mail it -- no, no, 15:43:27 23 I'm sorry. No, it gets mailed to you.

Brown - Keach - 10-8-19 143 15:43:29 1 I mail it to your shop. You read it over. If there's something that's inaccurate in there, 15:43:31 2 you have a little correction sheet on the back, and 15:43:33 you just send that back to me. 15:43:35 4 15:43:37 5 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'll do that. 15:43:38 6 MR. KEACH: All right. Let the record reflect the witness will read and sign, and that 15:43:39 concludes this examination. 15:43:43 8 (Deposition concluded at 3:43 p.m.) 15:43:53 9 15:44:04 10 15:44:04 11 15:44:06 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

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1	I hereby CERTIFY that I have read the
2	foregoing 143 pages, and that they are a true and
3	accurate transcript of the testimony given by me in
4	the above entitled action on October 8, 2019.
5	
6	
7	JARROD BROWN
8	
9	Sworn to before me this
10	
11	day of, 2019.
12	
13	
14	NOTARY PUBLIC.
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	

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1
   STATE OF NEW YORK )
2
                        SS:
3
   COUNTY OF ERIE
 4
 5
          I DO HEREBY CERTIFY as a Notary Public in and
6
   for the State of New York, that I did attend and
7
   report the foregoing deposition, which was taken
   down by me in a verbatim manner by means of machine
8
9
   shorthand. Further, that the deposition was then
10
   reduced to writing in my presence and under my
11
   direction. That the deposition was taken to be
12
   used in the foregoing entitled action. That the
13
   said deponent, before examination, was duly sworn
14
   to testify to the truth, the whole truth and
15
   nothing but the truth, relative to said action.
16
17
18
19
                           CSR, RDR, CRR,
20
                           Notary Public.
21
22
23
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148 1 DOCUMENT PRODUCTION REQUESTS 2 PAGE 44 3 (BY MR. KEACH:) 4 All right. I mean, I'm assuming you Q. 5 could look through your emails and use the search term Azar and find all Tom's emails. 6 7 Yes, I can find those. 8 Because unless you're talking about a Q. 9 bazaar, you know, there's really no other word 10 choice for Azar. That's a unique last name. 11 Α. No, it would definitely be in there. I 12 don't delete anything or go around --13 All right. I'm going to follow up with Q. 14 a short letter to you. If you need me to send you 15 a subpoena, I will. Hopefully you don't need that, and I'm going to ask you send those on to me so 16 17 that I can look at them, okay? 18 Α. Okay. 19 20 21 22 23

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